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TODAY
10P

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WEEKEND, CAR 96, WEEKEND MONEY, 1015 FOR YOUNG TIMES READERS AND 7-DAY TV AND RADIO GUIDE IN THE DIRECTORY

New rules may cap profits

Labour to fund gifted children from lottery

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

TALENTED youngsters will receive special funds to assist their development and turn them into the "Nobel Prize winners of the future" under radical plans by the Labour Party, to be announced today, for reshaping the National Lottery.

A Labour government would set up a new "stream" of lottery money with the funds dedicated to children and young people through the financing of specialist projects, including after-school clubs and "information technology cafes" where they could operate the latest computers. "Children are our future," Jack Cunningham said last night. "Investing in their education and skills is the best investment any nation can make."

But Labour would not limit the size of prizes awarded each week to lottery winners despite concerns about the effects of multi-million pound payouts. It believes, however, that when Camelot's contract ends in five years' time a "not-for-profit" organisation should, if possible, take over to ensure that all money raised goes back to the people.

If the lottery regulator does not think such a scheme is feasible, or guarantees efficiency, Labour believes he should cap the profits. It says that Camelot should not be able to keep the £6 million interest a year raised from unclaimed prizes and that it should go to good causes instead.

The proposals have emerged from an independent working group set up in February by Dr Cunningham, Shadow Heritage Secretary, to advise him about any changes Labour should make.

Anticipating charges from ministers that Labour would use the lottery as a back door for financing education while restraining its own expenditure, the report insists such funds should be "strictly additional to current government expenditure".

While not officially party policy, the report will form the basis for Labour's approach to the lottery. Its membership included a wide range of figures from the churches, the arts, voluntary organisations, pools promoters, bookmakers and many leisure organisations. At the report's heart is the plan to set up a new millennium commission when the present one, established to distribute money for events to mark the turn of the century, expires.

This would have a much broader remit and its "designated permanent good cause" would be children and young people. The commission would oversee funding on projects to help youngsters to learn new high-tech skills outside school, to give them better all-round play facilities, and to assist one-off teacher training projects, especially in new technology.

It would also have authority to introduce schemes, cash-limited and time-limited, to focus on particular national issues. Under such schemes Labour would back a plan — believed to be the brainchild of Sir David Putnam, the film producer, who serves on the advisory group — to introduce a new National Endowment for Arts, the Humanities and Sciences to support talented young people. Those with exceptional ability not only in sports but in sciences, the arts, and subjects such as mathematics, would get special help to develop their particular abilities.

Labour would try to involve the private sector. "It would be our talent fund aimed at boosting excellence — here we might help the Nobel Prize winners of a few years' time," a senior Labour source said last night.

Another group proposal is that local organisations should be able to apply to independent community trusts — dubbed "community chests" — for small funding sums rather than to go through the existing national bureaucracy.

But Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, said last night that the plan would see local councillors involved in the distribution of funds. "A Labour lottery would become a politically correct 'pork barrel'," she said.

Today's report will also contain a warning to the organisers of the Greenwich millennium exhibition to contain the costs, threatening to spiral out of control. It will underline Labour's opposition to an "open-ended commitment" to funding the exhibition dome. Although it backed Greenwich's selection, the party wants to ensure that the celebration is a truly national event, and that available funds are shared.

Mrs Bottomley said that Labour was planning, in effect, to nationalise the lottery despite its internationally recognised success.



Bequest paints nation into a corner

By Damian Whitworth

ONE of the country's foremost art history scholars wants to bequeath arguably the world's finest collection of 17th-century Italian baroque paintings to the nation. But the offer will be withdrawn if the Government fails to meet his tough criteria on funding museums and galleries.

Sir Denis Mahon, who has been a thorn in the side of successive governments over arts policy, proposes to give 61 works worth £25 million to the National Art Collections Fund (NACF) for disposal

among the nation's museums and galleries.

However, Sir Denis, 86, will change his will if the Government should at any time fall short of fulfilling what he believes are its commitments to supporting public collections. Furthermore, he plans to instruct the NACF that after his death it should at once withdraw any works deposited by him if a museum or gallery concerned should decide to sell off any single item from its permanent collection.

This is designed to stop public collections being pressured by gov-

ernments to dispose of works of art to raise funds. Sir Denis was instrumental in overturning government plans in the 1950s to get the National Gallery to sell part of its permanent collection.

"I feel passionate that the Government must not persist in its policy of progressively cutting grants to museums and galleries," he said.

The works will be on display at the National Gallery in London in an exhibition entitled *Discovering the Italian Baroque: The Denis Mahon Collection*, from February next year.

Waldegrave admits direct tax has risen

AN ADMISSION by William Waldegrave, Treasury Chief Secretary, that the average family was now paying about £50 a year more in direct taxes than in 1992, has undermined the Tory claim to be a tax-cutting party, Labour said yesterday.

Mr Waldegrave, asked by Jonathan Dimbleby on LWT whether on income tax the average person was worse off, said: "I think that's broadly right. You have to include National Insurance contributions because we had to put them up in 1994." But he added that the average family was still some £1,000 a year better off than at the last election.

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, seizing on his remarks, said: "John Major's claim that direct tax is falling has now been confirmed to be untrue by the Treasury."

Claim undermined, page 2

Abbey puts up mortgage rates

Abbey National is raising its mortgage rates for new borrowers by 0.25 per cent, costing a borrower with an average £50,000 variable rate mortgage £1.65 per week.

The estimated £1.64 per week gain to an average family from Budget tax concessions will be wiped out for most of the 1.6 million with Abbey mortgages. Page 48

Tiny Tim dies

Tiny Tim, the singer with the falsetto warble who turned *Tiptoe Through the Tulips* into a 1960s counter-culture classic, has died in America. He was 64. In September he collapsed after a heart attack at a Massachusetts ukulele festival. Pages 3, 23

Tunnel exercise

Eurotunnel staged a mock evacuation of a crowded passenger train deep in the Channel Tunnel 13 days after the fire there. In an attempt to convince the safety authorities that scheduled services can resume. Page 5

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Rush for jabs after death of second student

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

HUNDREDS of university students were given emergency vaccinations against meningitis yesterday after an outbreak of the disease claimed a second life.

A 19-year-old pharmacy student from the University of Wales in Cardiff died 27 hours after being taken ill. She lived in University Hall, close to a law student, also 19, who died on Thursday night. Neither has been named.

Three other students from the same hall have the disease confirmed yesterday as Group C meningococcal meningitis — and are being treated at the university hospital. One is seriously ill and in intensive care, while the other two are making a good recovery in an isolation ward.

Medical staff brought forward a mass inoculation programme as fear spread through the hall on the outskirts of the city. Vaccines exist to protect against this form of meningitis, and students living at the hall have also been given antibiotics to protect against infection.

Dr Bill Smith, Director of Public Health for the Bro Taf Health Authority, yesterday appealed for 100 students who left the campus over the weekend to return. "For whatever reason they went away, they should come back and be inoculated," Dr Smith said.

There was criticism yesterday from some students after it emerged that another student in the same hall had suffered a form of meningitis in mid-October. She recovered, but only her close friends were given protective antibiotics. Doctors believe that there is unlikely to be any connection between this case and the later ones, because the

Continued on page 2, col 3



ALBAN DONOHUE

Surprise attack on Prince Harry

PRINCE HARRY is subjected to a friendly ambush from Tiggy Legge-Bourke as they left church at Sandringham yesterday.

The royal party had been attending West Newton Parish Church as Sandringham Church is closed for rewiring. Miss Legge-Bourke, who is a personal assistant to the Prince of Wales and looks after the young princes when they are with their father, hugged Prince Harry outside the church and at one point wiped a speck away from under his eye before they walked down the path together. Since last month Miss Legge-Bourke has shared the role of personal assistant with Phyllida Dare.

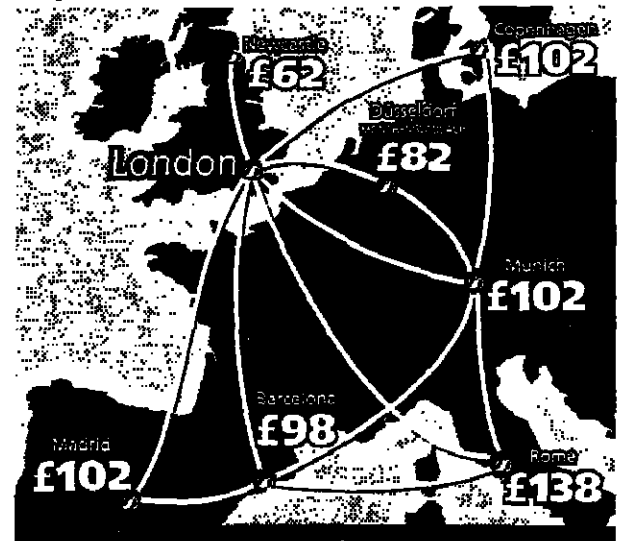
The party included King Harald of Norway and Queen Sonja, who were among guests being entertained at Sandringham House for the weekend. Prince Edward and Sophie Rhys Jones, who spent the weekend at nearby Wood Farmhouse at Wollerton, were also there.

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Labour on attack after Waldegrave's tax admission

By PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR's claim that he has observed the Conservative election pledge to cut income tax was undermined yesterday as a Cabinet minister admitted that the average family was paying £50 a year more in direct taxes.

Labour swiftly demanded the withdrawal of the Conservatives' post-Budget advertising which shows the Prime Minister proclaiming "as promised, lower in-

come tax", after William Waldegrave, the Treasury Chief Secretary, confirmed the increased tax on income tax for those with more money in their pockets than in 1992 because of steadily rising incomes.

The dispute broke out after it was disclosed that Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, is looking at plans to cut income tax for middle income earners when Labour publishes its detailed tax plans early next year. Mr Brown, in line with his party's list of a "fairer"

taxation system, is considering proposals which would enable several hundred thousand people to stop paying tax at the higher rate of 40p. He will examine an increase in the threshold because more people than estimated are expected to move into the top rate band next year.

The latest claims and counter claims confirm that Labour is determined to take on the Tories on taxation in the election. Not for the first time Labour was delighted by Mr Waldegrave's frankness in

answering a direct question with a direct answer.

Appearing on the *Jonathan Dimbleby* programme on LWT, Mr Waldegrave was asked whether on income tax the average person was now £50 a year worse off than in 1992. He replied: "I think that's broadly right. You have to I think include National Insurance contributions because we had to put them up in 1994."

Figures compiled by the House of Commons Library last week show that the average person's

earnings have risen since the last election; this is mainly because of the erosion of allowances, including mortgage tax relief and that for married couples, as well as the National Insurance rise. Mr Waldegrave said that the average family was still £100 a year better off than it was at the last election. But Mr Brown said: "William Waldegrave has finally been forced to admit that the Tories have not been telling the truth about direct taxation. Mr Major's claim that direct tax is 'as promised' has now been

confirmed to be untrue by the Treasury."

Mr Waldegrave said the Government's first priority was to make cuts in income tax and shift the burden to "indirect" taxation "because that gives people more freedom to spend". He insisted: "Nobody is worse off." The average family was better off because of low inflation, falling unemployment and rising earnings, he said.

Some people were better off, but he insisted that, as a proportion of their income, people were paying more in tax now than in 1979. Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, told BBC's *On the Record* programme: "What has actually happened is that people's incomes have gone up very significantly, therefore, on the higher income, they pay rather more tax than they would have done on the lower income."

Peter Riddell, page 20

Trimble voices fear on Blair's Ulster policy

By BRONWEN MADDOX AND NICHOLAS WATT

DAVID TRIMBLE, the Ulster Unionist leader, yesterday voiced fears that Tony Blair is less committed to Northern Ireland than John Major. In an interview with *The Times* in Washington, where he is expected to meet President Clinton tomorrow, Mr Trimble said: "I am not sure that it is a personal priority for Mr Blair in the same way."

The MP for Upper Bann conceded that there was little difference between the two party leaders in their approach to the Province. However, he expressed some concern about Mr Blair, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary. Mr Trimble said that she had "made a good impression when she was first

that Mr Blair could underline his commitment to Northern Ireland as Prime Minister by appointing a more senior figure to the post of Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary. One candidate is Jack Cunningham, the Shadow Heritage Secretary.

During his trip to Washington Mr Trimble will press the Clinton Administration and Britain to proceed with the Stormont talks without Sinn Féin.

He said: "As things stand there is no likelihood of Sinn Féin/IRA meeting the necessary conditions to enter the talks. We went into the talks on the basis that if Sinn Féin didn't come in, then talks would go on without them."

Mr Trimble also praised George Mitchell, the former US Senator who is chairing the multiparty talks. His comments came as Senator Mitchell's office denied allegations in a Sunday newspaper that Martha Pope, a senior member of his staff, had developed a close relationship with Gerry Kelly, a senior member of Sinn Féin who is a convicted IRA terrorist. The office said in a statement: "The allegation is totally false. Miss Pope has never met Gerry Kelly."

A hardline republican leader who opposed the IRA ceasefire in 1994 said yesterday that terrorists would continue to bomb Britain until Ireland was united. Ruairi O Bradaigh, a former IRA "chief-of-staff" who is now president of the breakaway Republican Sinn Féin party, rejected the current talks process because he claimed that it would not lead to a British withdrawal from Ireland. Mr O Bradaigh was speaking in Dublin at the annual conference of the Republican Sinn Féin, which split from the main party in 1986. The small party's terrorist wing, the Continuity Army Council of the IRA, has planted a series of bombs in Northern Ireland recently.

Leading article, page 21

Police officers were recovering yesterday after being injured in attacks by loyalists as they protected a Roman Catholic church in Killybeggs, Co. Antrim. A petrol bomb was thrown and a bus set on fire after 500 protesters gathered outside. The weekend protests began three months ago after nationalist objections to Orange Order parades in a neighbouring village.

appointed [but] lately there has been some concern, particularly with her view that the status quo is not an option."

Ulster Unionists were encouraged when Mr Blair, who has Protestant relatives in the Province, became Labour leader. Kevin McNamara, who believed in Irish unity by consent, was dropped as Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary and replaced by Dr Mowlam, who committed herself to a bipartisan approach.

Since then, Ulster Unionists have become concerned that Mr Blair will be preoccupied with affairs closer to Westminster if Labour wins the election. However, there is strong speculation at Westminster



Students at the University of Wales, Cardiff, queue for treatment yesterday.

Continued from page 1
Incubation period is ten days. But Rhodri Morgan, Labour's Welsh health spokesman, said he would raise the matter during question time in the House of Commons today. "I am concerned to hear of the earlier outbreak at the same hall and we need to explore the links between the cases which were just five weeks apart," he said.

How the five students affected caught the disease remains a mystery. The bacterium responsible is carried in saliva, but the five involved were not part of a close group.

After the first death, Dr

Two die of meningitis

Smith called for the cancellation of disco and parties warning that intimate contact could risk further spread of the disease. But more than 1,000 students attended a rave at the Great Hall in the Student Union building on Saturday night. English literature student Bethan Jones said: "Everyone was talking about meningitis - nobody knew at that time that a second student had died."

President of the Student Union, Dot Hodge, said: "Two deaths in the same hall has traumatised everyone."

Dr Smith appealed for calm, saying that the antibiotic treatment gives instant protection. "But because of the incubation period of this strain it will be 10 days before we know if the worst is over."

Meningitis is an inflammation of the lining of the brain. Initial symptoms are rather like flu, but meningitis can develop with frightening speed. No vaccine is yet available for Group B meningitis, but there are two vaccines against groups A and C.

Judges lack 'full funding' by court users

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR judges have strongly attacked government plans to reap the entire cost of running the civil justice system - including judges' salaries - from fees charged to people who use the courts.

Sir Richard Scott, who as Vice-Chancellor heads the High Court's Chancery Division, told *The Times* the self-financing plans were "lamentable". Judges, he added, had not been consulted, "just told it was government policy". "The notion that the civil justice system should be paid for by the people who use it is misconceived. It should be available for anyone who needs it, like the police force. When you report a burglary you don't expect to have to pay for the police to come and investigate."

Another senior judge, Lord Justice Saville, a member of the Court of Appeal, said the plans amounted to a revival of a policy scrapped in the 19th century. "It puts the independence of the judiciary in jeopardy if judges' salaries are part and parcel of the money available to run the system. Their remuneration should be quite separate."

It is government policy to move gradually towards using fees charged to court users to cover all running costs. Now the fees charged to litigants total some £232 million - 80 per cent of the total cost.

The clash between senior judges and the Lord Chancellor's Department coincides with a fundamental review of judges' salaries. The Lord Chief Justice is concerned that these are now so removed from earnings of top barristers or solicitors that recruitment could be at risk.

Lord Justice Saville said that at the commercial Bar, the gap had widened hugely. Ten years ago, a High Court judge's salary would be about £50,000 with a top-earning commercial silk getting £300,000. Now silks get up to £1 million a year while, from yesterday, High Court judges are paid £104,415.

Scott renews fight to hold on to seat

Sir Nicholas Scott will tonight "battle hard" to avoid deselection as the Conservative candidate for Kensington and Chelsea when he faces a crucial meeting of local party members. The embattled MP, who last month failed to win a vote of confidence from his association's ruling executive, will throw himself at the mercy of the wider constituency membership.

Last night Sir Nicholas, 63, said: "It is all to play for. I am taking nothing for granted. I shall go in and battle hard." Yesterday he prepared for the meeting and held a coffee morning to thank his supporters.

Gun lobby holds march

More than 1,000 members of the Sportsman's Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland marched from Hyde Park to Trafalgar Square in London to urge the Government to review its Bill to abolish all handguns apart from single-shot 22 pistols. They were backed by Frank Cooke, Labour MP for Stockton North and pistol captain of the Palace of Westminster Rifle Club, who accused the Government of negligence in drafting the regulations.

Cash-row minister quits

Michael Lowry, the Irish Transport Minister, has resigned amid reports that the Republic's largest supermarket chain, Dunnes Stores, paid his house extension bill of £207,000 three years ago, when he was chairman of Fure Gael and responsible for fund-raising. Mr Lowry, 42, once seen as having prime ministerial potential, insisted he was not guilty of any impropriety, but said that he was going in the interests of the two-year-old coalition government.

£5m ransom for picture

Police and insurance negotiators were trying to arrange the return of a 500-year-old oil painting stolen from the stately home of the Marquess of Bath two years ago and held to ransom by a gang demanding £5 million. Interpol had launched a worldwide hunt for the work, *Rest On The Flight into Egypt*, until officials at Lord Bath's Longleat estate were contacted by the gang. Lord Bath has since held discussions with insurers and police about the claims.

Club bouncer shot dead

A nightclub bouncer was shot dead early yesterday in a revenge killing by a teenager who had earlier been denied admission for refusing to be searched. Murder squad detectives said that the youth got into an argument with the doorman at the Island Nightclub in Ilford, east London, and returned to fire seven shots into the foyer. Christopher Lombard, 26, was killed and a colleague, who was shot in the back, was said to be in a serious condition.

Surfers swept 5 miles out

Two surfers who were rescued after being swept 5½ miles out to sea off Southend-on-Sea, South Wales, were described by coastguards yesterday as "very lucky indeed". The two men, aged 25 and 28, who were wearing wetsuits, were only spotted in the darkness by a rescue helicopter thanks to a strobe light one of them was wearing on his arm.

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Firms face flood of claims from disabled people

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE most radical law to protect disabled people in Europe takes effect in Britain today. Lawyers are expected to bring a host of claims under the Disability Discrimination Act, enabling the courts to define the exact limits of handicapped people's rights.

Businesses face major new responsibilities to adopt an enlightened approach towards the 6.5 million disabled Britons.

"It will be against the law to discriminate unjustifiably against anyone with a disability either in employment or in the provision of goods and services," said a spokesman for Lewis Silkin, a firm of commercial solicitors. "Businesses who do so face costly industrial tribunal and court battles and hefty compensation claims."

The wording of the Act still leaves major issues unclear. For example, it will remain legal to discriminate against healthy people with the Aids virus. Once they develop the symptoms of Aids, however, they will be classed as "disabled" and have the right to equal treatment with the rest of the population.

Another grey area is mental illness. Technically, an employer cannot discriminate against someone with a history of psychiatric problems, but it is not clear what the position is, for example, if an applicant once had a short-term problem with post-natal depression, which affected her work.

The Act is being enforced in

stages but the key measures come into force today. Ministers are worried that many businesses think that by installing a wheelchair ramp, they have fulfilled their duties to the disabled.

The Act applies to councils, hotels, banks, solicitors, pubs, theatres, hairdressers, shops, churches, courts, doctors and estate agents.

"Numerous challenges for employers will be thrown up by the legislation. For example, retailers will be unable to use customer reaction as a reason for refusing to employ a shop assistant with a facial disfigurement," said Lewis Silkin.

"A number of existing business practices may be discriminatory under the Act, including taking absence records into account in making recruitment decisions or selecting for redundancy. Employers should also consider adjustments to working practices where employees are suffering from stress at work."

Businesses recruiting staff will have to consider changes to advertisements, application forms and interviews. Employers must consider more flexible hours, reallocating tasks, adjusting premises and equipment to accommodate disabled workers.

Some disabled groups believe the Act is inadequate and unenforceable, however, relying on vague terms like "substantial", "reasonable" and "normal" whose meaning can only be defined by the courts.

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Two may lose court commendation

Police heroes are criticised for not shooting gunman

By A Staff Reporter

TWO police officers who declined to shoot a man brandishing a gun in the street have been reprimanded for not following their manual, which says they should have fired after issuing a warning.

A senior officer was later discovered to have tried to block a police commendation recommended by a judge who praised their courage.

The men, from a police firearms unit, went to the scene with colleagues in Luton, Bedfordshire, after the alarm was raised that a gunman was on the loose. The two found themselves being approached by the gunman but, instead of shooting to stop him, as regulations state, they kept him talking and realised he was suffering from a mental illness.

A police dog handler was nearby and the officers took the decision to allow the animal to be sent in. The man was overpowered and the gun grabbed from him. He was unharmed and it was then discovered the weapon was an air pistol.

When the two men returned for debriefing, they were strongly criticised by senior officers for not shooting the

man. Eventually the man was dealt with at Luton Crown Court, where Judge Peter Goldstone said the officers had shown "considerable bravery".

He said they had also acted with considerable gallantry and recommended they each be awarded a commendation.

A decision on whether they receive their commendations is soon expected soon, and the Police Federation has been drawn into the dispute, after the discovery that the commendation might be blocked.

A police source said: "The groundswell of opinion amongst the constables is that these two guys acted extremely bravely, and the people in charge have not appreciated what they did. All Hell has broken out over this."

"These blokes used their discretion based on their experience. As they were talking to the man, they made a decision that he wasn't going to fire his weapon. But their governors are saying they were not in the position to make that judgement and they should have shot the man."

"But these people are looking at it in terms of black and white. Whatever the manual

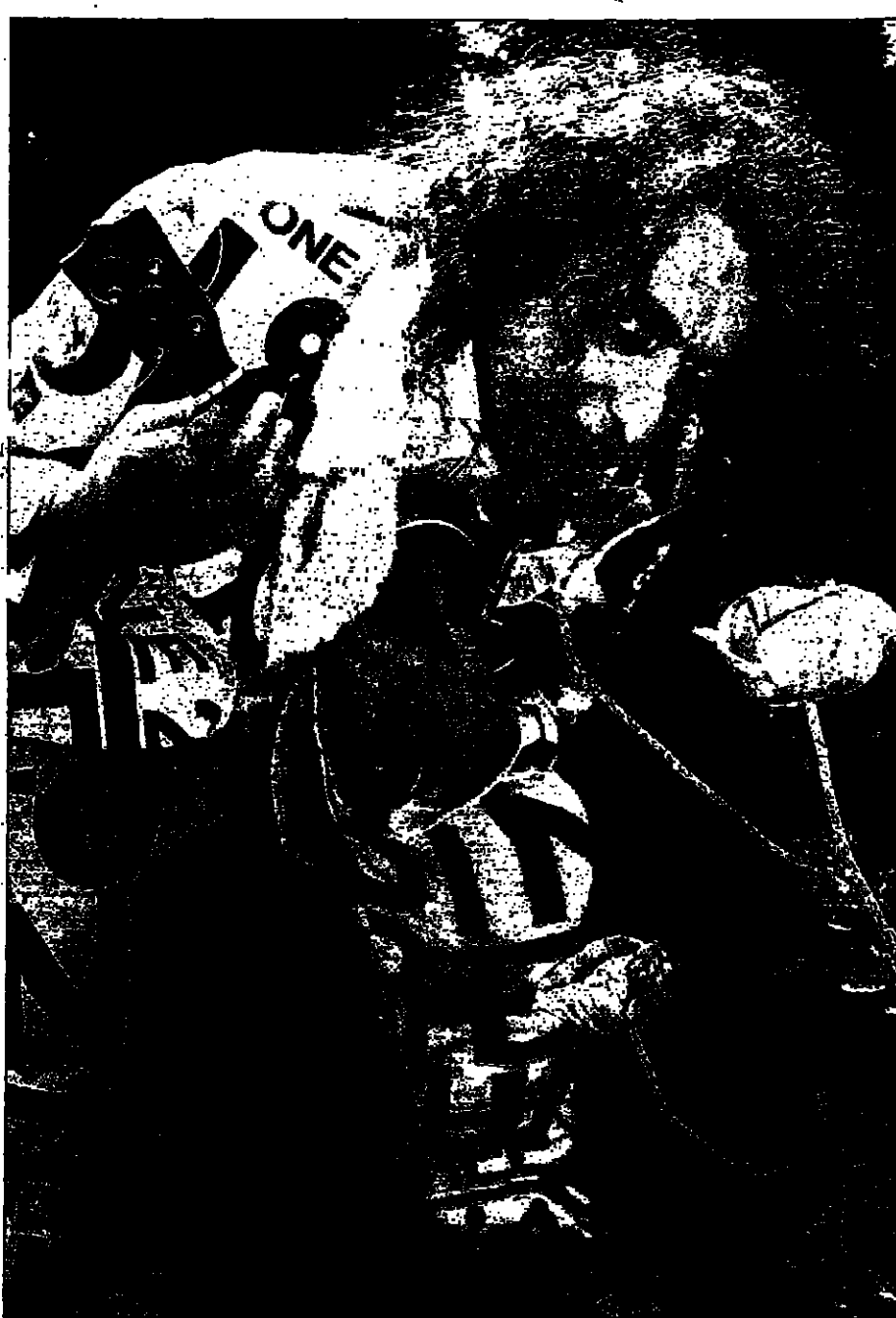
says, there are very few areas. The judge praised bravery when the officers came to court, but officers were not in the court case and did not have been recommended for a commendation.

"It seems that a senior officer was trying to cover it up but that's not fair. They should get it. It should be marked against their record because they showed tremendous bravery."

At the court case in August, Judge Goldstone said: "The officers acted with considerable bravery. He is a very fortunate man that they did not protect themselves by shooting which many people would think that they would have been wholly justified in doing."

The officers, if I may say so, and I would be grateful if you will convey this, acted with very considerable gallantry. The use of the police dog was a very civilised and sensitive way of dealing with the matter."

Officers are trained to shoot at the upper body, effectively to kill. They have no specific procedure to shoot only to wound.



The one-time Herbert Khaury tiptoes through another quirky stage performance



Tiny Tim marries "Miss Vicki" Budinger in 1969

Odd ball pop star

Tiny Tim is dead

By A Staff Reporter

TINY TIM, the wild-haired singer with the falsetto warble and ukulele who crooned *Tiptoe Through the Tulips* into a 1960s counter-culture classic, has died. He was believed to be 74.

He died at the Hennepin County Medical Centre on Saturday night after apparent cardiac arrest, Ellen Lafans, a nursing supervisor, said. Tiny Tim already suffered from congestive heart failure, diabetes and other problems before he collapsed and fell off the stage on September 23 after a heart attack at a ukulele festival in western Massachusetts.

"If I live 10 years, it's a miracle. Five years, it's even more of a miracle," he said after an 11-day hospital stay that followed the collapse. "I am ready for anything that happens," he said. "Death is

never polite, even when we expect it. The only thing I pray for is the strength to go out without complaining."

Born Herbert Khaury, Tiny Tim built an unusual career as an entertainer on his single hit song in 1968, his stratospheric falsetto, an asexual and childlike stage persona and a shy man's uncanny flair for self-promotion. He managed to translate his moment of pop fame into an enduring career of concerts and albums.

He hedged about his age. The Minneapolis hospital listed him as 66. But he never gave up searching for that elusive second hit. "As long as you're recording and they pay the fee, it's like a lottery ticket. You never stop trying."

Obituary, page 23

Cycling body told to sort out its affairs

By Tim Jones

THE Government has told the Sports Council to withhold the British Cycling Federation's grant until it has sorted out its affairs, after an audit referred to internal strife and conflicts of interest on the management board and inadequately structured management accounts.

Members of the federation's executive board passed a vote of no-confidence in its president, Tony Doyle, and asked him to resign a month after he was elected. The repercussions could end in litigation.

Ian Sproat, the Sports Minister, told the Sports Council not to make further payments of the £500,000 which the federation receives annually until it is satisfied the body has put its house in order.

Jon Trickett, Labour MP for Hemsworth, and a member of the Otley cycling club, said the internal audit disclosed concerns about the financial position of the federation, BCF Promotions Ltd, and the Manchester Velodrome. The audit, he said, refers to actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest involving some board members. Speaking in the Commons, he alleged that some members of the federation board were principals of companies that had been supplying it with services.

The report also detailed, he said, a grave state of affairs in relation to the manner in which the federation had been managed. This included inadequate financial accountability and control. Mr Doyle resigned following questions he is said to have asked concerning federation affairs.

Mr Trickett condemns the way the Sports Council passed on the results of the audit to the recent annual general meeting of the federation.

'Sexist' Cooke faces checks on his US freedom

By Bill Frost

ALISTAIR COOKE, BBC Radio's veteran commentator on the American way of life, may be subjected to more stringent editorial control after an allegedly "sexist" broadcast.

Commenting on a survey which disclosed that 4 per cent of women in the US armed forces had been the victim of actual or attempted rape, the 88-year-old journalist said he thought the men "showed remarkable restraint". In his regular *Letter from America* Cooke also expressed surprise that the figure was so low.

BBC presenters said last night that he had "overstepped the mark" and editors should check his copy before it was broadcast. "Because of his age and authority everybody is frightened of him," said one.

"Alistair is an institution but perhaps he has passed his sell-by date: 88 is a ripe old age. The remark was not sexist — more of a facetious aside. But it should have been picked up by an editor because it could be seen as gratuitously offensive."

Cooke has defended his remarks in typically robust fashion. Critics had distorted his words. "There is unfortunately a minority, and this happened ever since the start of the feminist movement, which sits with gritted teeth, and they don't respond to your talk, but what they think is there," he said.

It is hard to think of a figure further from the edge of political controversy (Quentin Letts writes). Cooke has been writing his *Letter from America* since March 1946. The programmes are not heard in the US, but he is an almost legendary figure, regarded as one of the best-loved "gents" of American broadcasting.

Until 1971 to 1993 he presented *Masterpiece Theatre* on PBS (the Public Broadcasting System) where his English vowels, delivered from a clubby armchair, created an air of old-fashioned courtesy which made him a byword for graciousness.

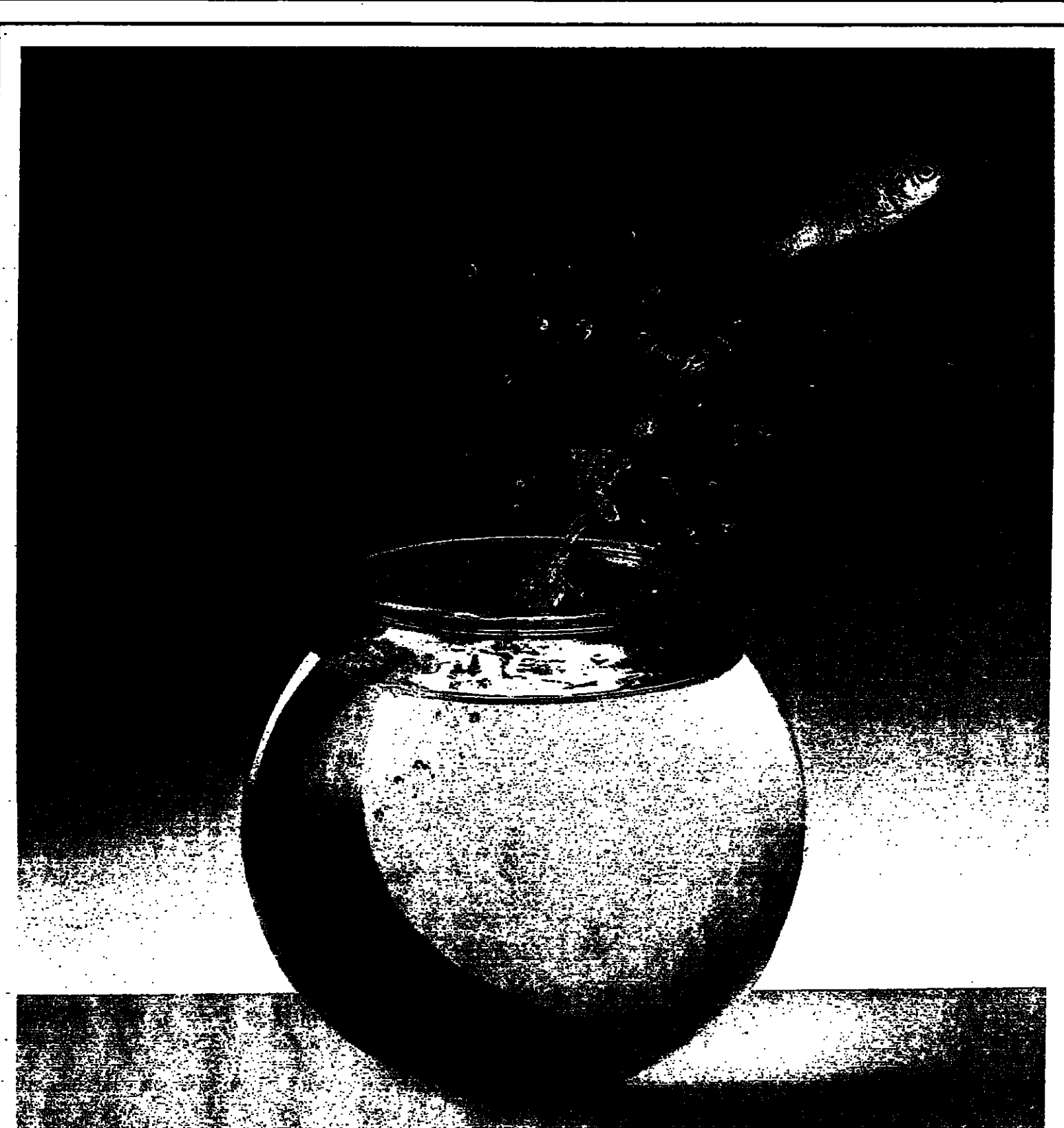
Bel Mooney, the writer and broadcaster, urged BBC editors "to exercise some restraint" on his broadcasts. "He is a man of a certain generation and maybe that sort of remark was acceptable when he was young. Today it is not, and the BBC should check what he writes."

Mary Whitehouse, founder of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association, said: "He needs a dressing down because this was a very poor show. There is nothing amusing about rape."

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Cooke, grand old man of radio, faces inquiry

Confusion over patron saint spells trouble for parishioners

By Tim Jones

FOR more than 150 years, worshippers have been paying homage to a saint they believe established their parish church.

They have erected a statue of him inside the church and forged links with a German town thought to be associated with him.

Now, a professor has thrown the tiny congregation into turmoil by telling them that instead of worshipping St Disen, they should be praising a man called Denis. Professor Nicholas Orme, a church historian, claims that St Denis's name became muddled because of an old spelling mistake and there is no proof that St Disen existed.

He claims the mistaken name of the church, at Bradninch, near Exeter, was

compounded 100 years ago by Dr Charles Crosleigh, the then rector, who turned the legend of St Disen establishing the church into fact. According to Dr Crosleigh, Disen, believed to be of Irish descent, was making a trip to Germany when he called in at Bradninch and established a church.

But Professor Orme said: "There is no evidence even that such a saint existed, let alone that he was patron saint of Bradninch."

According to Professor Orme, Crosleigh was a better cleric than a historian. "He was fairly amateurish in his research. At that period, although the Church was recognising its saints again, there was a feeling that Celtic saints were better than Roman ones. I don't say he did it on purpose, he was, after all, a

victim of a printing error, but it was easier to get away with mistakes in those days."

Professor Orme's research has failed to impress the present incumbent, the Rev David Robottom. He said: "Many families have been here for generations and for them St Disen is their patron saint, book or no book."

Jim Vallis, a local craftsman who 20 years ago carved a wooden statue of the saint, which now adorns the church, was angry at suggestions the church should become St Denis's. He said: "It's been called St Disen for ages. It is what people here are used to and it should stay the same for ever."

In his book on the subject, Professor Orme claims that in Devon alone, because of ignorance or error, more than 150 churches have been dedicated to the wrong patron saint.

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By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

Par Petch, who chairs the National Governors' Council, said the claims of negligence

Mr Rabinowicz will rely on

Letters, page 21

BY NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

The findings, which help to explain the turkey's ability to live across a range of climates, came from tests on the wild turkey, which lives between Canada and southern Mexico. The males are twice as large as the females. It was the breed which William Strickland first brought to Britain in 1526, selling six in Bristol for twopence each.



By JOHN O'LEARY

The teachers, has which to risk, state, as the SCAA Chair, "The State is experiencing a 'cognitive concern' as the impact of the changes. Carol Whitely, the head teacher of Carlisle School on the Isle of Wight, said: "It can limit children's aspirations quite considerably if you put them in for the tier which restricts them to a C or D grade. You are telling them they only have to turn up in that subject. But schools do not want to risk pupils coming out with nothing... so the temptation is to put them in the tier that will be discussed at a full meeting of the SCAA next month."

☐ A return to more traditional A levels, with harder examinations in some subjects such as English Literature, will be recommended by Government advisers this week.

OPTICIANS

BY A STAFF REPORTER

Mr Reece, who was awarded a £700 settlement from the school, said he hoped that such "victimisation" would not deter other people from entering politics. He said: "What I do in my own time is

Mr Reece was backed by the National Union of Teachers in his claim. Mr. Coombe said yesterday that he had acted in the interests of his pupils and denied any prejudice against the Labour Party.

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Fingers crossed: relatives and friends joined Eurotunnel staff yesterday on board the train in the mock evacuation

Tunnel safety exercise dismissed as worthless

By JONATHAN PRYNN
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

EUROTUNNEL yesterday staged a mock evacuation of a crowded passenger train deep in the Channel Tunnel in an attempt to convince the safety authorities that scheduled services can resume.

The exercise, 13 days after the fire that closed the tunnel, was described as worthless by local politicians and safety experts, who accused Eurotunnel of putting profits before passengers' lives.

John Noulton, a Eurotunnel spokesman, said that the company was pleased with the evacuation even though it took five minutes longer than the target of two hours and five minutes to remove all 491 passengers and crew from the tunnel. "It has all gone satisfactorily," he said, adding that people had been removed from the train to the service tunnel that runs between the two main tunnels within minutes. "Once they were in the service tunnel, they were safe."

Members of the Channel Tunnel Safety Authority and the intergovernmental commission which oversees safety

in the tunnel were on board the train, as well as observers from the Department of Transport. They will meet today and later in the week to discuss the emergency exercise. The commission is also to conduct a full check of other safety mechanisms.

Eurotunnel hopes that services will begin later this week. Mr Noulton said the company had "broken the back" of the work required by the safety authorities.

However, the British Safety Council said: "We are still very unhappy with the safety of the tunnel. It is far too early to

reopen. Eurotunnel are putting profits before safety and shrouding this in far too much secrecy."

Roger Gale, Tory MP for Thanet North, complained that Kent Fire Brigade had not been involved in the exercise. "I would regard any exercise taking place with the approval of the Kent Fire Brigade and police as satisfactory but any other exercise as meaningless."

"The conditions were wholly unrealistic. The problem with the last fire was the smoke, which caused the overhead cables to collapse and left the tunnel powerless. If the tunnel

is reopened too quickly no one will want to travel through it for fear of the same thing happening again."

The Eurotunnel spokesman said that Kent and Calais fire officers contracted to the company had helped in the mock evacuation and that there had been no need to involve other emergency workers.

French and British Eurotunnel staff and their families and friends took part in the exercise, which was similar to several conducted before the company received its full operating licence in 1994. The train passed through the undamaged north tunnel until it reached a point opposite the damaged section of the south tunnel, about 12 miles from Calais. The passengers were evacuated and walked about a mile along the service tunnel towards England. They boarded a rescue shuttle on standby at the Folkestone end.

The evacuees included two people in wheelchairs, about ten infirm elderly people and 20 babies and toddlers. The volunteers will receive a free return ticket on a shuttle train or £10 in duty free vouchers if they are Eurotunnel staff.



The train was evacuated near the scene of the blaze

New drugs 'too costly' for Aids sufferers

By JEREMY LAURANCE
AND NIGEL HAWKES

BRITONS infected with the Aids virus are only half as likely to receive treatment that could extend their lives as sufferers abroad.

Ignorance among doctors and reluctance by a hard-pressed NHS to fund more expensive drugs are sending thousands of HIV-infected patients to an early grave. In the United Kingdom 40 per cent of the 20,000 people with HIV known to have consulted a doctor are receiving treatment, compared with 79 per cent of the 94,000 HIV patients in France.

The figures, from the pharmaceutical market research company, Isis Research, also show that a third of HIV patients in the UK refuse antiretroviral therapy, compared with only 10 per cent in other countries.

The latest drug trials, reported at a conference in Birmingham earlier last month, show that combinations of drugs which include the new protease inhibitors can have dramatic results. They do not eliminate HIV or cure Aids, but they reduce the amount of virus in the body to below detectable levels.

However, a combination of the established drugs, AZT and 3TC, costs £6,500 a year per year of life saved. If a protease inhibitor were added, it would increase the cost per year of life saved to £10,000.

This compares with the cost of many established therapies, such as breast cancer drugs (£19,000 a year per year of life saved), kidney dialysis (£32,000) and coronary bypass surgery (£73,000). But the cost of treating the whole Aids population of the UK has been worked out at £10.3 million a year for AZT alone, £34.8 million for AZT and ddI, and £50.4 million if a protease inhibitor is added as well.

Michael Binyon, page 17
Leading article, page 21

Outbreak shuts wards to other patients

A HOSPITAL has been closed to all GP-arranged admissions except suspected cases of the *E. coli* 0157 food poisoning outbreak. Monklands Hospital in Airdrie is using a third ward to deal with the outbreak. It will be used as an intensive care unit.

Thirty-two 32 adults and a child were being treated yesterday in the hospital, where the Lanarkshire Infectious Diseases Unit is based. The number giving cause for concern rose from ten to 15 over the weekend, and the number showing symptoms rose from 189 to 209.

A hospital spokesman said: "Accident and emergency services are not affected. A number of elective admissions have been postponed."

Dr Martin Donaghy, consultant in public health for the Lanarkshire Health Board, said one extra confirmed case was reported yesterday. "Due to the delay in the serious effects of the bacterium, we must be prepared for more patients giving cause for concern over the next few days."

The outbreak has so far claimed five lives. Across Central Scotland, more than 50 victims are in hospital.

Professor Hugh Pennington, professor of medical microbiology at Aberdeen University, is heading the Government inquiry into the outbreak and said yesterday: "I think probably the outbreak has peaked. There is still the possibility that we may see some secondary cases — there may still be bits of food out there that haven't been spotted."

His investigation will look "in detail" at the decision to withhold for five days the names of outlets supplied by butchers John M. Barr & Son of Wishaw, the firm at the centre of the outbreak. Lanarkshire Health Board has released the name of an additional outlet, Shawhead Post Office, Coatbridge, which was supplied with boiled ham and roast beef.



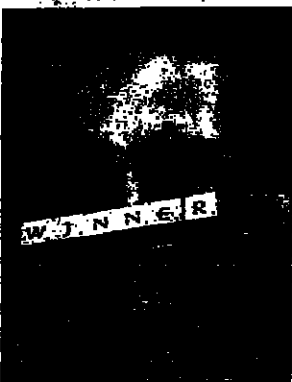
Scrabble champion's word of difference

ANDREW FISHER was unsure if the word "battered" existed when he tentatively placed the seven tiles on a Scrabble board. But his 74 points for the word meaning refreshment bar helped the 31-year-old accountant to become the 25th national Scrabble champion.

Mr Fisher, from Glastonbury, Somerset, said: "I had an idea it was to do with drinking but I didn't know what it meant. It was the key to the last game. It gave me the lead and I never lost it."

The new champion, a runner-up in the 1991 championship, also scored with oche, bidon, and zig. His opponent, Terry Kirk, a 34-year-old financial data editor, from Finchley, north London, lost the final despite producing the highest scoring word, an 84-point "battered".

Mr Fisher, who plays Scrabble against his computer for an hour each week, and plays in a club every fortnight, said the atmosphere at the three-day competition, the Forte Crest Hotel in Regent's



Fisher: refreshed score by 74 points

Park, central London, was serious and -defended the game's image. "In the past it was seen as something played by schoolboys and grannies, but the top players are all relatively young people who are serious about it."

A total of 70 competitors, from as far apart as Edinburgh and Cornwall, took part in the Silver Jubilee championship. The top prize was a trip to America for the world championship.

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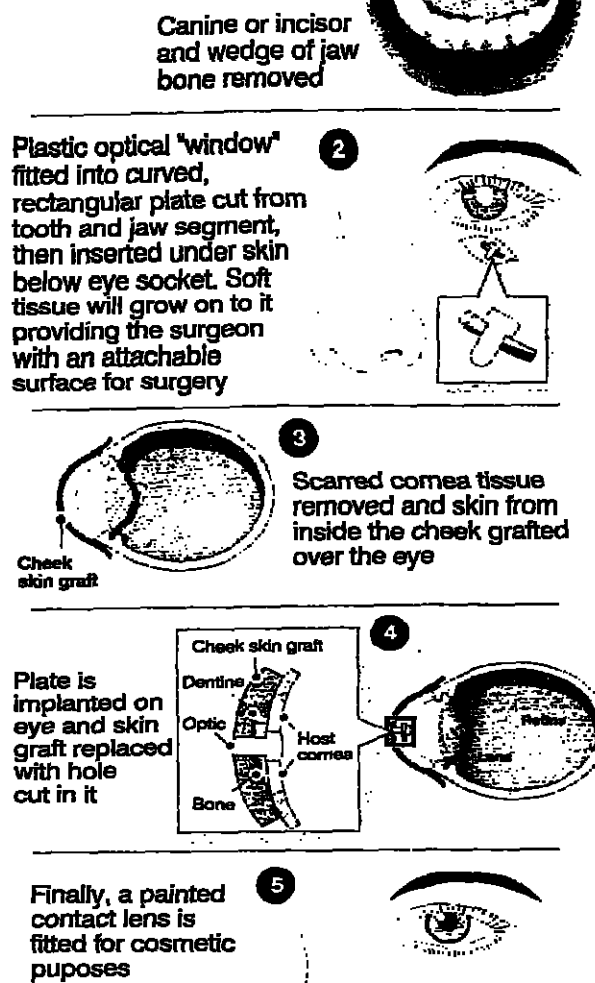
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A tooth for an eye will make blind man see

Surgeon brings revolutionary Italian technique to Britain

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

TRANSPLANTING A TOOTH INTO THE EYE



A BLIND man has had a tooth transplanted into his cheek to help to restore his sight. The second stage of the operation in three months' time will move the tooth into the patient's eye and drill a hole in its centre to support a plastic "window" that will replace a damaged cornea.

Bhimji Varsani, 61, from north London, underwent the first stage at Sussex Eye Hospital, Brighton, last Wednesday. Details of Mr Varsani's operation, the first time the technique has been attempted in Britain, were withheld until today.

Christopher Liu, consultant ophthalmic surgeon at the hospital, said: "This is a revolutionary technique. An artificial plastic cornea would eventually fall out but it will stay in when surrounded by tooth and bone. That is the magic of it."

"It may seem bizarre but it is necessary. There are other types of material we can use instead of tooth and bone, but they don't work long term."

Mr Liu, 36, said that he had been "exhausted but exhilarated" after the eight-hour operation was completed.

He studied the technique in Italy, where it was pioneered

by Professor Giancarlo Falcinelli, who travelled to Britain to assist at last week's operation. About 180 patients have undergone the surgery in Italy, with three quarters gaining reasonably good sight.

The procedure, to be shown tonight on *Tomorrow's World* on BBC1, involved removing a tooth and piece of bone from the patient. It was shaped and drilled to provide a framework for the plastic lens.

The modified tooth was inserted into Mr Varsani's cheek just below his left eye, where it will remain for two months while tissue grows into it. At the same time a small piece of tissue was taken from inside his cheek and grafted over the front of his left eye.

In the second stage, the tooth will be moved into the eye and the tissue that has grown into it used to stitch it in place. A contact lens fitted over the tooth will disguise its appearance.

The operation, which costs £7,000, could help 30 to 50 patients a year in Britain whose eyes have been damaged by injury or disease but are not suitable for human

cornea transplants. Mr Varsani, who is married with three adult children and six grandchildren, lost his right eye through smallpox when he was eight.

He contracted trachoma in his good eye two years later but he could see well enough to be a carpenter for 25 years. Then his sight deteriorated so badly that he could no longer work.

Three corneal transplants failed to take and he has been unable to see anything for more than a year. Within hours of the complicated surgery, he was sitting up in bed telling how he looked forward to seeing two of his grandchildren, aged five and two, that live with his son in Canada.

"I am just looking forward to seeing people again - then I'll be very happy. Nobody can guarantee it will work but hopefully it will," Mr Varsani said.

Jim Herold, the consultant maxillofacial surgeon who removed the tooth and piece of jaw bone and shaped it, said that he had suspected an April fool when Mr Liu broached the idea for the surgery. "When Chris first phoned me up about it, I had a good look at the calendar."



Christopher Liu attending to Bhimji Varsani



Mr Liu with his mentor, Professor Falcinelli

Dangers discovered in 'safer' version of painkiller

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

A DRUG company has withdrawn a so-called "safer" version of paracetamol because it carries its own dangers for some patients.

SmithKline Beecham, the pharmaceutical company, says that in normal use paracetamol is risk free and that more harm could be caused if large numbers started taking the "safer" version, which is combined with an antidote.

Last week the Government proposed restrictions on the sale of paracetamol because of concern at the rising number of overdoses. At least 30,000 patients a year are treated in hospital for overdoses which can lead to liver damage. In 1994 there were 115 deaths.

Until last month, SmithKline Beecham sold a version of paracetamol combined with methionine, the antidote used to treat overdoses. Although the drug, called Pameton, has never been promoted, it was available to the general public through pharmacies at £4.85 for 60 tablets.

Last week it was withdrawn from general sale and will in future be available only to individuals or institutions who specifically request it from the company.

Evidence submitted by the company to the Medicines Control Agency which has come to light in the past year shows that methionine may be harmful in pregnancy and may interact with drugs used to treat depression, schizophrenia and Parkinson's disease. Up to 2 per cent of the population who are at risk of familial heart disease have a defect which prevents them metabolising methionine, potentially increasing their risk.

The company says that in institutions where the risk of overdose is high, use of the combined preparation may be justified, but in normal use, the potential risks of methionine should be avoided.

Dr Marion Wellwood, director of medical communications for SmithKline Beecham, said: "We want to make sure it doesn't become a popular substitute for paracetamol. Most people don't need it, so why take the risk?"

In a letter to *The Times* today, Dr Keith Jones, director of the Medicines Control Agency, says that in normal use paracetamol is an effective analgesic with an excellent safety record. "There is no reason why those who presently use paracetamol should switch to an alternative analgesic," he says.

Keep off smoggy side of the street

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

MANY busy streets are smoggier on one side than the other, researchers have found. Studies have disclosed that the build-up of hazardous fumes can be up to three times higher on a particular side.

Asthmatics, people with breathing difficulties and heart conditions, and babies in pushchairs can, as a result, suffer levels of pollution that break national and European health limits, but by crossing the street can be in relatively clean air.

The difference reflects wind direction. People are safer downwind than upwind. The research has been carried out by Alan Penn and Ben Croxford, of the Bartlett School of Architecture at University College London. Mr Penn said yesterday that he was using the findings to decide the healthiest route when taking his six-year-old daughter to school in Highgate,

north London.

Mr Penn, a senior lecturer in architecture, said yesterday that the best way of avoiding high levels of fumes was to walk on the opposite side of the street from where the wind was blowing. If the wind was coming from the south and a pedestrian was walking east-west, he or she should be on the north side.

The school developed cheap pollution-monitors, the size of milk cartons, allowing measurements to be made across and along busy streets. The studies show that wind blowing across the road hits high buildings and streams down, bringing relatively clean air. It bounces back across the street, gathering the traffic fumes, and pushing them onto the other side.

The research, funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, came to the Government, at the end of last month, as a consultation period for its "National Air Quality

Strategy. The strategy sets health limits for pollutants and requires local authorities to draw up action plans to tackle areas of high pollution. It is hoped that the new monitors used in the research, and which some councils are starting to test, will help to provide a truer picture of where the hot spots are.

Mr Penn said that the current network of air pollution monitoring stations was giving misleading results. Most, like the one near Victoria Station in central London, are set back from busy roads in quiet backwaters. Mr Penn said that outside Victoria station, fumes can be up to ten times higher than is officially claimed.

The monitors are also showing how some streets can, because of traffic management, switch from being relatively clean to fume blackspots. Mr Penn said maps might be developed showing when and where pollution is worst.

Doctors must not turn a deaf ear to noisy riddle

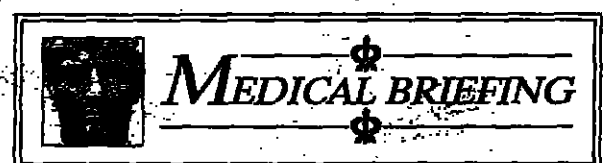
Tinnitus is a condition in which the patient hears noises, apparently through the ears, when there is no external source of the sound. The noise in the head may be whistling, ringing, hissing or buzzing and it may be intermittent or continuous.

Dr Jonathan Hazell, director of research at the Royal National Institute for Deaf People, is reported to have suggested that tinnitus is "all in the mind" and is likely to prove contentious and may offend patients who have long-standing hearing loss.

He said that the noise could leave their job or to move house.

The report may have oversteered, Dr Hazell's comments. His complex problem is not an early warning symptom of many ear which may result from infections of the ear or throat and sometimes malignancy. It is usually associated with hearing loss.

People with normal hearing can experience the distressing effect of tinnitus if they take drugs which are toxic to the



auditory nerve, such as some antibiotics. Aspirin and alcohol also cause problems. Ringing in the ears is a frequent sequel to a night of heavy drinking and the noise can be made louder if the sufferer takes aspirin to alleviate a headache.

Tinnitus is also present if the eardrum or auditory canal is blocked; a finger in the ear rapidly demonstrates the low-pitched tinnitus associated with obstruction of the earhole.

One of the most common causes of tinnitus is Meniere's disease, which incorporates deafness, vertigo and tinnitus. The symptom may be induced by exposure to a very loud noise. In these cases the tinnitus is usually transient but the deafness may remain.

Few doctors would disagree that, although tinnitus is caused by a physical condi-

tion, the response of the sufferer can vary enormously. Treating the mood of patients with tinnitus has been standard medical practice for more than 30 years and much can be done to help patients to become more resilient.

Such an investigation, which should include a specialist ear, nose and throat opinion and appropriate scans of the head and temporal bone. Sometimes when tinnitus stems from diseases in the arteries the sound pulsates in time with the heartbeat. A pulsatile tinnitus therefore triggers investigation of the carotid and vertebral arteries.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

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GPs under scrutiny for 'fake' drug tests

By JEREMY LAURANCE

THE first agency to investigate medical fraud in Britain is examining six cases in which doctors are alleged to have faked drug-test results.

The agency, set up four months ago, is also investigating one case of prescription fraud and two of negligence. One of the nine cases is to be heard by the General Medical Council, the doctors disciplinary body, and two others have been referred to it.

Dr Frank Wells, former medical director of the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry, set up Medico-Legal Investigations based at Datchworth, Hertfordshire, with Peter Jay, a former police detective who worked as an investigator for the GMC's solicitors.

Dr Wells said pharmaceutical companies had woken up to the problem of medical fraud and decided to tackle it seriously. A typical case of involved a GP who agrees to undertake research for a drug company which involves recruiting and monitoring volunteer patients. He then finds he cannot cope with the workload, or fails to recruit sufficient volunteers, and rather than lose face or money, fabricates data or invents patients.

"There was no body to which cases of suspected fraud could be referred for investigation," Dr Wells said. "We have unearthed seven since August. I don't believe that is because there is more fraud but because there is a need for an agency for people to bring cases to."

SCENTS OF WONDER.



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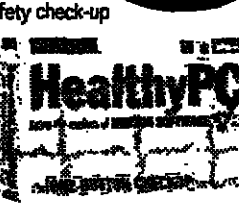
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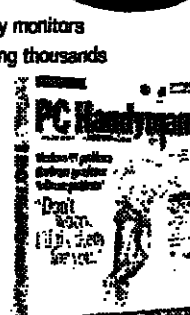
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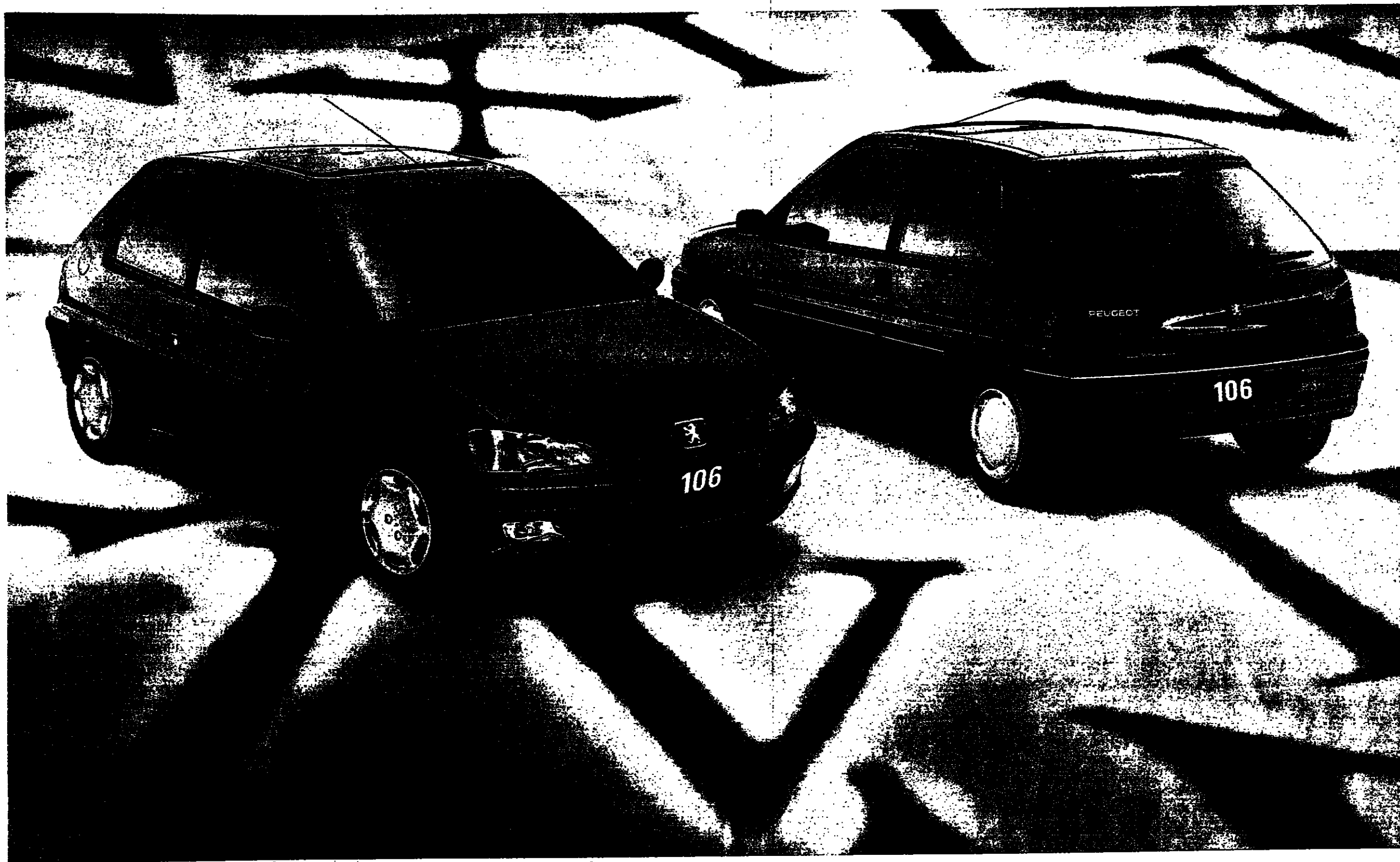
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BY DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

Mrs Bottomley responded by appointing a committee to co-ordinate millennium events with the churches, but many in the clergy still had grave doubts. The rejection by the Millennium Commission of a request for £3 million to produce a 13-

over the next few years would not capture or reflect this inner aspect of the celebration, or provide any means for focusing public attention on the spiritual re-examination and renewal which he feels are a key part of the millennium's

"When people look at the huge investment in our heritage, our arts and our sporting infrastructure, we will have a thrilling tapestry of provision." She cited the restoration of Portsmouth Harbour and the Earth Centre at Doncaster.

John Major is reported to have told friends that he would be prepared to declare publicly that the chances of Britain joining are "very remote". There have been persistent signs that several

Asked on BBC's *On the Record* if Mr Major would rule out entry in 1999, he

"The issue is very, very simple. Discussions are going on about what a single currency regime will look like if it happens. If it happens, one

launched in 1999. Mr. Heseltine said that Tory backbenchers were wrong to be "nervous" about the meeting. The Treasury said that no decisions would be taken in Brussels ahead of the Common debate next week.

BY PHILIP WEBSTER

In spite of the fierce attack in the committee on Mr Willetts by one of his colleagues, Quentin Davies, Tory MPs are hoping it will find that Mr Willetts was guilty of foolishness and exaggerating his role rather than suggest that he offended against Parliament. Mr Davies will have the crucial vote.

But in the past five years, the proportion of donations from small companies has risen from 23 per cent to 37 per cent. The bulk of donations, totalling £19 million last year, comes from rich individuals.

BY JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL REPORTER

So far, the petition has been signed by some 15,000 Labour party members and officials, trade unionists, and members of socialist groups. Despite claims that the three MPs, all members of the left-wing Campaign

Mr Simpson, MP for Nottingham South, said he had signed many petitions in support of maintaining the link between the party and the unions, and had been unaware that this particular one had been

He added: "I think people should look at the merits of the issue, which is defending the rights of people who belong to trades unions and the removal of the incredible restrictions that are imposed on unions in this country."

it says. We protest at statements by David Blunkett and Tony Blair suggesting that Labour will not only keep the present anti-union laws but may make them tougher." It also criticises Stephen Byers, the Shadow Employment Minister, for suggest-

that the Labour party could not ignore the 15,000 signatories to the petition. "They are people who have held the Labour movement together over the last 15 years and feel very disillusioned with the way things are going," he said.

But in the past five years, the proportion of donations from small companies has risen from 23 per cent to 37 per cent. The bulk of donations, totalling £19 million last year, comes from rich individuals.

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Charter winners make their mark in record number

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

A RECORD 323 organisations will today receive Charter Mark awards for their standards of public service. Winners include schools, hospitals, police forces and benefit offices.

However, for the first time, a prominent public body has lost its gold-medal rating. The judges decided that it would be unacceptable for the War Pensions Agency to retain its Charter Mark after a new computer system led to a backlog of claims and thousands of complaints.

Awards are being made to nine privatised water and electricity companies, although only two — Midlands Electricity and Wessex Water — were nominated by customers. Their selection drew attacks last night from Labour critics. They were particularly infuriated by awards to Norweb, now part of United Utilities, which faced a shareholder revolt over executive pay, and Severn Trent Water, which has been criticised for its pollution record.

The others are Anglian Water, Dwr Cymru Welsh Water, Manweb, Northern Electric and Scottish Power. Roger Freeman, the Public Service Minister, said that winners had to demonstrate excellence in nine criteria, including user satisfaction, to a panel of independent judges. Directors' pay was not one of their considerations.

"Charter Mark is now established as the award for excellent public services," he

Local authorities won 109 Charter Marks. They include Birmingham City Council, "wasp buster" unit; Broadbourn Borough Council, Hertfordshire, sends old people birthday cards to advise of allowance changes; East Herts District Council, compost collection; Brent Libraries, north London, open 73 hours a week, all day Sunday; Westminster City Council, 24-hour anti-noise team.

said. "I would like to congratulate all those working in the winning services. They are dedicated people who have gone the extra half and deserve the recognition."

The scheme is open to any service dealing directly with the public which controls its own budget. A total of 737 applied. The winners receive a £70 crystal award and certificate from Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister.

Five organisations lost their Charter Mark: Goodwood Court surgery in Hove, Sussex; Hounslow Council care and repair service; Waltham Forest Council advice and information service; Merthyr Tydfil consumer advice service; and the War Pensions Agency, based at Norcross, near Blackpool. The agency, which handles about 140,000 claims a year from former servicemen and women or their families, was held to

have failed because of the level of criticism and because it did not handle complaints properly.

Some of the agency's sternest critics sympathised with staff. Terry English, controller of welfare for the Royal British Legion, said: "Staff do their very best but there are not enough people to cope with the work. There are also serious delays with appeals." Kevin Caldwell, the agency's chief executive, said that it was tackling the problems.

An award for high standards in education facilities is being made to Holme House Prison, Stockton-on-Tees, which pioneered literacy classes where inmates learn with their families. Almost a third of the 750 inmates are taking courses taught by local college staff and up to six a week have personal tuition in the visiting room with their partners and young children.

Charter Marks, pages 39-41



Reading with father: award-winning Holme House Prison, Stockton-on-Tees, allows inmates to be joined by their children for afternoon literacy classes

Airport silences some critics with anti-noise efforts

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

COMPLAINTS about aircraft noise at Heathrow have plummeted despite a sharp rise in the number of flights from the world's busiest international airport. But they have climbed at Gatwick, where BA has introduced hundreds of additional flights.

Figures to be released next week will show that in the three months to September there were 56,646 flights at Heathrow, up 6 per cent on last year. The number of noise complaints was 1,254 compared with 1,670 in the same period last year.

The latest figures for Gatwick show a 43 per cent year-on-year rise in complaints. The number of night flights there has gone up by 70 per cent, according to local groups.

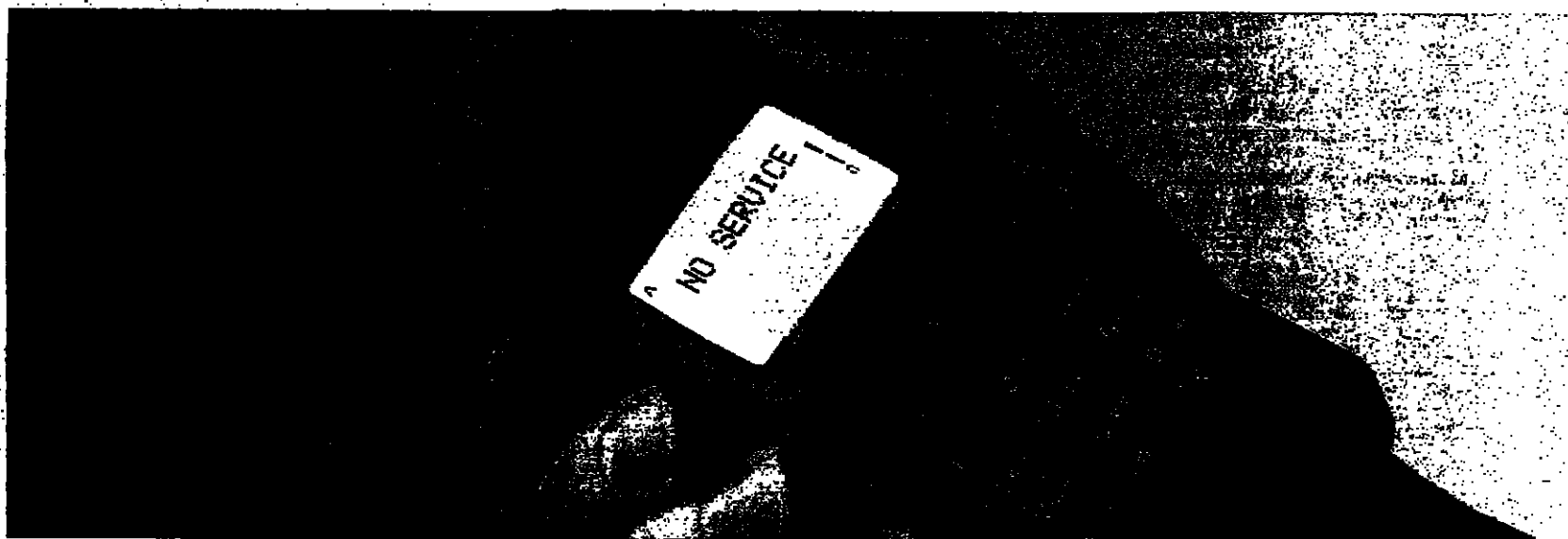
BAA, the airports authority, is to introduce tighter noise limits at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted next month with fines of up to £1,000 for aircraft which exceed the limits. BAA also charges older, noisier jets 30 per cent more to land at Heathrow which, it

says, has led to a sharp drop in their number. "The measures we are taking to improve the noise environment, together with the airline industry's gradual introduction of quieter aircraft and the work which has gone on at Heathrow visitor centre to monitor and explain why there is a working problem, appear to be working," a Heathrow spokesman said. "We will continue to work hard to bring about further improvements."

Residents and environmental groups said that the reduction was a short-term blip. BAA's noise-monitoring unit admitted that the 1995 figures had been exaggerated by several weeks of concentrated use of one runway instead of the normal alternating of take-off routes.

Dermot Cox, of the Heathrow Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise, said: "These figures fluctuate from time to time and we know that there is a general worsening of the noise problem in a vast and widening area around Heathrow."

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Drivers admit 50 blunders a week

By Jonathan Prynn, Transport Correspondent

THE average British motorist is careless, aggressive and makes about 50 serious mistakes a week, according to a survey of driving habits.

The study of 300 drivers, including 50 who kept detailed diaries of all their car journeys, found they made an average of 2.6 errors which could cause an accident on all their 19 trips a week. Young drivers were the worst, confessing to 72 mistakes weekly, while older ones said they committed only 28.

Overall, they admitted being careless at least once on 98 per cent of their journeys and drove badly, for example by misjudging corners, on 83 per cent. They were prey to "road rage" on 13 per cent of trips and feelings of anger or recklessness at least once ev-


ery other journey. The single most common risk taken was speeding, admitted on 37 per cent of journeys and a factor in 22 per cent of crashes.

More than half the motorists said they had had an accident, with 60 per cent blaming the other driver and 20 per cent accepting the blame themselves. Only 4 per cent said their crashes were genuine accidents with no human error involved. The others shared the blame or blamed a third party.

Gary Lubner, the managing director of Autoglass, which commissioned the survey, said he was so shocked by its findings that they had been passed on to the Department of Transport. He said: "Drivers don't have accidents — they cause crashes."

If Canada has its way seal pup coats will be back in the shops shortly.

About 75% of the 268,921** seals killed in Canada last spring were seal pups, just days or weeks old. Many of them were "whitecoat" or "blueback" baby seals whose pelts are valued in the fur trade. The EU has banned the importation of these pelts, but now the International fur dealers are working behind the scenes to have this ban lifted. MP's and EuroMP's are already resisting this pressure, now we need your help.

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*Source: DFO, 1996 Seal Quota Report - Newfoundland Region October, May 31, 1996
**Source: DFO, "Seal Report", Licenses and Seal Harvested to date, Canada, May 31, 1996.



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Serb leader faces growing dissent

Ministry
tries to quell
protests
against
Milosevic

By DESSA TREVISAN AND
OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AS UP TO 100,000 demonstrators demanding the resignation of President Milosevic took to the streets of Belgrade yesterday, Serbia's Interior Ministry warned that it would no longer tolerate "any element of violence".

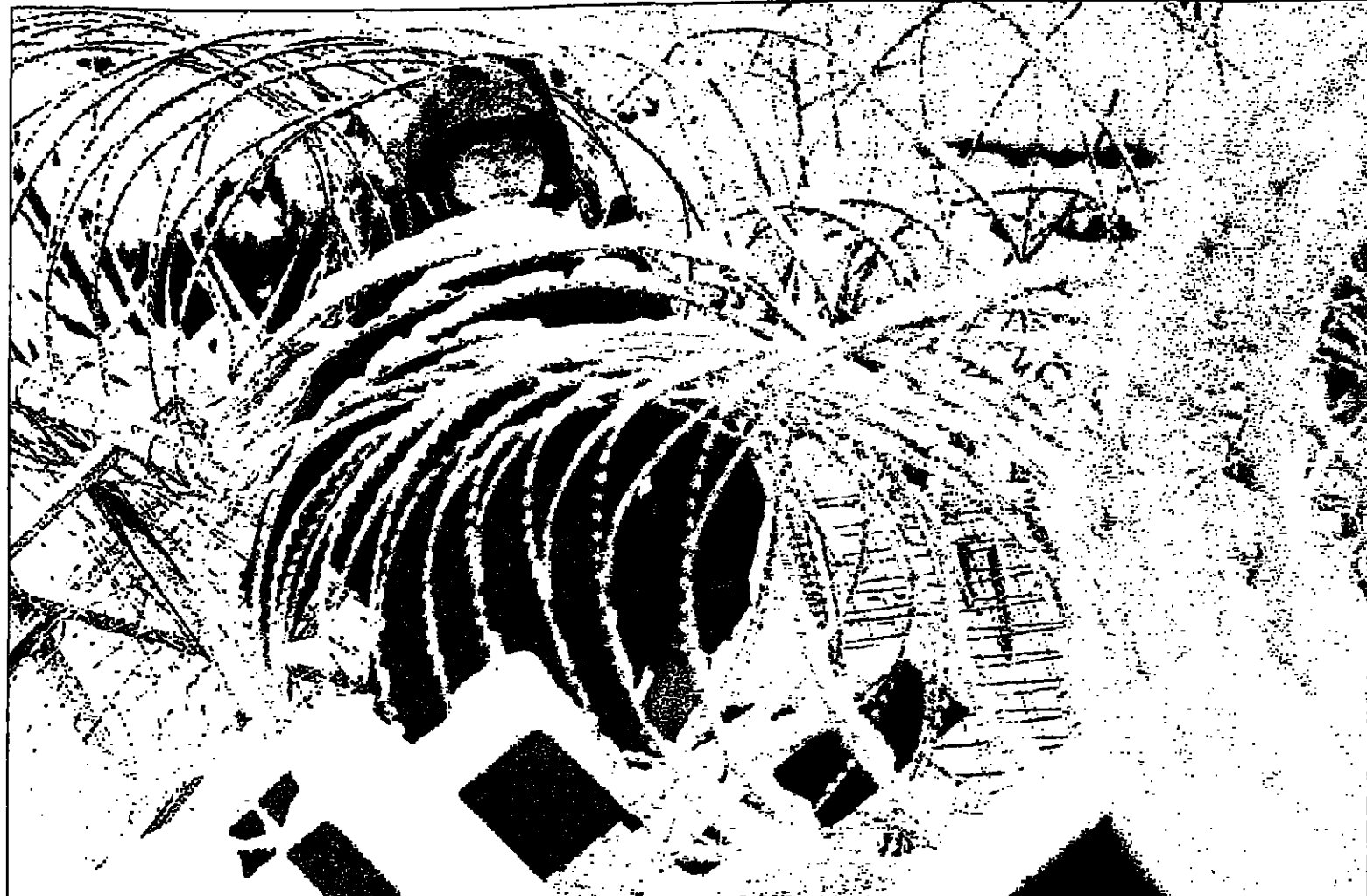
The warning came as Zoran Djindjic, one of the principal opposition leaders, threatened to spread the protests to other Serbian cities, and MPs hostile to President Milosevic said they would resign their seats when Parliament meets tomorrow.

The state television centre and the Milosevic-controlled newspaper *Politika* have been stoned during the demonstrations. Protesters have accused provocateurs of launching the attacks.

Mr Djindjic told an independent radio station in Nis, Serbia's second city: "We have decided to broaden the protests to another six or seven towns. The network of protest and civil disobedience is taking hold... This is a test of legality, we are defending the principle of respecting the law."

Belgrade, the capital, has long been an opposition stronghold. Nis, however, has been loyal to Milosevic.

Although the Zajedno (Together) opposition coalition is now talking of launching strikes, students and intellectuals have so far been the



A French soldier with Nato forces in Bosnia guards his post in the centre of Sarajevo yesterday. The 1100 troops are to stay until mid-1998

backbone of the protest movement.

"We won't live under the same regime as our parents did," Mihajlo Jakovic, 21, a medical student said. "They might not have wanted to live under Communism, but had no choice. We are determined to choose."

"Their place is in history, where all other Communists have gone already," added Danica Bozicevic, a 19-year-old law student. The protests were sparked by massive

fraud in recent municipal elections before turning into a campaign for Mr Milosevic's resignation.

In the war of nerves, Vuk Draskovic, the other key opposition leader, is calling on the Serbs to follow the example of Prague demonstrators who forced the Communists out in 1989 after 47 days of peaceful demonstrations.

Whatever their differences, the two opposition leaders are united by their determination to destroy Mr Milosevic's

credibility abroad as well as forcing recognition of opposition victories in the elections. The opposition alliance has so far demonstrated what for Serbia is remarkable unity. But underneath there are personal vanities and animosities, old scores and political differences.

In fact, the two leaders could not be more different. Mr Djindjic, the unemotional leader of the Democratic Party, has often tended to discard principles for the sake of

expediency, of playing up to nationalists or even to Radovan Karadzic's Bosnian Serbs.

Mr Draskovic, however, who abandoned nationalist rhetoric before former Yugoslavia plunged into war, stood firm and as a result lost many of his earlier supporters.

In Pale, seat of the Bosnian Serb "parliament", he was regarded as a Serb who had betrayed the Serbian cause. Both men are committed to the Dayton accords that underpin

the Bosnian peace process. While Mr Draskovic remains a romantic who is often carried away by emotion, Mr Djindjic is a cool-headed politician.

He showed his ruthlessness in 1993 when he ousted his mentor, Dragoljub

Micunovic, the man who founded the Democratic Party. They split when Mr Djindjic made a U-turn to embrace Serb nationalism and struck up a close relationship with Dr Karadzic.

Loyal partner gets cold feet at prospect of fiscal marriage

Karl Weik, an American who studied the way big companies and institutions behave, liked to say that "organisations act in order to discover what they are doing". Remember Mr Weik's insight as you watch Jacques Chirac and Helmut Kohl trying to work out what they are doing together in their three encounters over the next fortnight.

When the French political establishment signed up so blithely for a European single currency that would bring them leverage over the Bundesbank, they had no idea they were buying tickets on a voyage of discovery. Over the past five years, events have uncovered all sorts of unwelcome truths about monetary union.

In national politics, voters digest, accept or reject new ideas fairly fast. European Union politics work sluggishly: the system is hybrid, part federal, part inter-governmental. With 15 states, 12 languages, 380 million people and decision-making encoded in robotic jargon, the impact of treaty changes and Euro-laws dawdles slowly. Although the French Government signed Maastricht years ago, the roof-raising, no-holds-barred single currency dispute has only just erupted.

Confidence in the euro is draining out of French politicians like sawdust from a scarecrow. With unemployment at 12.6 per cent and rising, growth stuttering and an election due in 15 months, ministers are backed against the wall. Even Jacques Delors, the retired architect of this dream fast becoming a nightmare, has been waffling about how monetary union cannot work unless the EU agrees a "growth pact".

Translated into English, that means either that the single currency rules have to be bent or the franc devalued.

Last week, Herr Kohl replied: "All proposals going in the direction of relaxing the criteria [for EMU] or of a devaluation at the heart of the European monetary system would be damaging to the common cause," he rumbled in *Nouvel Observateur*.

He added the ringing statement that "being deeply convinced that there is no responsible alternative to a united Europe, Germany and France will remain the promoters of the process of European unification".

THIS WEEK



IN EUROPE

The German Chancellor passed up the opportunity to contradict the severe drumbeat of bankers' warnings from Frankfurt. Price stability rules, says Hans Tietmeyer of the Bundesbank. Low deficits are for ever, says Alexandre Lamfalussy of the embryonic European central bank. Monetary union means that its member states will be joined "heart and soul", says the Bundesbank's Otnar Issing.

The German establishment's message to its opposite numbers in France amounts to: "You really want a say in our monetary policy? So let our countries get married."

France hesitates at the altar. Once upon a time, its leaders believed that monetary union could happen without the French nation being upset and without their state being usurped. Now that the way European monetary union will work in practice is clearer, no one can explain how French traditional autonomy is compatible with the rules of the new game.

Iron-clad "stability pacts" inside an EU hard core make President Chirac's proudly patriotic oration last week on André Malraux sound a touch hollow. Nobody says it out loud in Paris, but monetary union means a less French France.

No one, least of all M Chirac or Alain Juppé, his punch-drunk Prime Minister, sees a way out. France has seen off gleeful British predictions of Paris-Bonn crises before and the alliance across the Rhine has always muddled through.

The problem does not go away, however. The scholar Emmanuel Todd summed up the dilemma with pity: "If they give up the single currency, they get burnt because people have already suffered too much for its sake. If they do it, they'll be incinerated for exactly the same reasons."

GEORGE BROCK

Moldovan election 'rigged'

FROM REUTERS
IN KISHINEV

PRESIDENT SNEGUR was yesterday accused of trying to rig the ballot as Moldovans voted in the second round of their first multi-candidate presidential election.

"People have been paid to vote. Other inventions to falsify the results are being used," Petru Lucinschi, the left-wing challenger, said. Mr Snegur, President of the former Soviet republic since independence in 1991, accused his opponent of dirty tricks, however. Polls showed the two running neck-and-neck after Mr Lucinschi won 28 per cent of the vote in the first round last month.

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French drivers' victory set to spark fresh wage unrest

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRANCE'S road system slowly returned to life at the weekend as lorry drivers congratulated themselves on a hugely successful strike and the country began a grim assessment of the political and economic damage caused by a 12-day strike likely to provoke similar unrest in other sectors.

"Is this victory contagious?" wondered *Le Journal du Dimanche* yesterday beneath a headline declaring "Lorry Drivers - Now the Bill."

Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, proclaimed that a "balanced outcome" had been achieved, but the dispute has been more widely seen as an embarrassing rout, in which the drivers paralysed the country and won all they wanted from an enfeebled Government desperate to avoid further disruption.

The list of concessions - retirement at 55, payment for loading and resting equivalent to a 10 per cent wage rise and a £400 one-off pay bonus - has prompted envious noises from other workers. The strike enjoyed wide public support, but it has set into stark relief the weakness of a Government forced to dig deep into the public purse and use its decree powers to end an illegal blockade of roads, ports and fuel depots.

Last year, when faced with a crippling 24-day transport strike, M Juppé climbed down over efforts to scale back ludicrously generous pension benefits for state-employed rail workers. This year he has gone further, using taxpayers' money to buy off disgruntled private-sector workers.

The Government has repeatedly called for looser market regulation, a scaling back of the welfare system and cost-cutting to ensure France meets the deficit-reduction rules for European monetary union. When the French drivers slammed on the brakes, however, it took just 12 days before the Government came up with new social benefits, fresh regulation and a large cheque.

"It is always the same: a group of

workers with the power to blackmail takes the country hostage and forces the state, which can ill-afford it, to step in and hand them victory," lamented Franz-Olivier Giesbert, Editor of the conservative *Le Figaro*. The lorry drivers' strike perfectly illustrated "the French sickness", he observed.

Commentators on the Left have also wondered at M Juppé's willingness to buy off a special interest group. Serge July of *Libération* said the Prime Minister was setting a "bad example by interfering in the private sector, offering concessions and making ex-

EMU provokes festive protest

Bonn: European economic and monetary union caught up with Christmas yesterday when more than 100 Father Christmases and a handful of angels marched through Berlin to protest against government spending cuts (Roger Boyes writes).

The Father Christmases are threatening to go on strike. In another blow to children yesterday sweet industry talks over sick pay collapsed. Confectionery workers are threatening to paralyse 11 chocolate and biscuit factories.

ful social movement uniting unions across the country."

M Juppé may find he has bought an expensive peace in one battle, only to start a war.

□ Agnès M Juppé called on the Gaullists to stop sniping and unite behind him as the party celebrated its twentieth anniversary. M Juppé, the president of the Gaullist RPR, founded by President Chirac as political heir to postwar leader General de Gaulle, urged the party to back his austerity reforms to bring France into the European single currency in 1999.

Philippe Séguin, his Gaullist rival for the leadership, addressed a separate rally. He said: "Anniversaries are intended not only for memories. They are there to blaze a trail. (Reuters)



The Pope presides over the first vespers of Advent, the start of the church year, in St Peter's on Saturday when he called for greater unity between the Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches.

He also formally opened three years of celebrations leading up to 2000 - the start of the third Christian millennium - which he has declared a holy year, saying he would be there "at God's pleasure".

"The millennia belong to Christ, especially the two which

Pope looks to millennium

mark his coming to the world and whose anniversary we shall celebrate," said the Pope, 76, who looked tired but in relatively good health after last month's surgery to remove his appendix.

He said Christians should spend the last three years of the century preparing themselves

spiritually for the new millennium and he called on humanity to show a stronger social conscience and more brotherly love.

The Pope has made Christian unity a primary goal of the run-up to 2000 and on Saturday he sent a letter to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, the leader of the world's Orthodox Christians. In it he hoped that Christians could arrive at 2000 "if not united, at least closer to resolving the divisions of the second millennium". (Reuters)

Deficit dispute tests strained Paris-Bonn axis

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

TENSIONS between France and Germany over the proposed single currency will be on display in Brussels today when European finance ministers try to settle a dispute over rules for fining countries that run up excessive budget deficits.

Although Tory Eurosceptics have dramatised the ministerial gathering as a showdown for Britain, Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, is under little pressure since his stance on the so-called stability pact is shared with France and the majority of member states.

Ranged against them are Germany and The Netherlands, who are holding out for tough rules to punish governments that threaten the future euro by spending beyond their means.

To the anger of its anti-Maastricht critics, the Government backs the principle behind the stability pact, calling it necessary to ensure the future economic health of Europe whether Britain joins the single currency or not. It insists that the British opt-out from economic and monetary union (EMU) will fully exempt Britain from the pact if it decides against joining.

Mr Clarke has promised to seek further guarantees from his European colleagues and will place a "scrutiny reserve" on any decision today, pending next week's debate in parliament and the Dublin European Union summit in ten days. He also rejects claims that Britain could be subject to diktats from Brussels under a procedure, being discussed today, that will strengthen the EU's surveillance of all members' economies.

Mr Clarke and EU officials note that the only sanction under the "reinforced" scheme would be a public rebuke from Brussels. This would come about only if Britain ran a recklessly inflationary budget.

Michael Heseltine, the deputy Prime Minister, said yesterday that it was pointless to promise guarantees before the stability pact had been settled. Diplomats do

not expect Germany to give much ground today in the quarrel over the fine print of the stability pact, a dispute which is adding to fresh French resentment towards Bonn over the painful costs of preparing for EMU.

The heart of the dispute involves the definition of the "temporary and exceptional" circumstances under which badly-performing governments will be let off penalties. These fines, which can be given back to the offending state if it returns quickly to virtue, are to be fixed at a maximum of 0.5 per cent of GDP.

Britain, France and their partners want to leave maximum discretion to the political leadership, but Germany wants penalties to kick in automatically for delinquent governments unless they are suffering from a recession of an annual 2 per cent of gross national product or worse.

The latest bout of jitters has been sharpened by the lorry drivers' strike and by a call from Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the former President and co-founder of the monetary system, for the franc to be devalued as a way of rescuing the country from its crippling level of unemployment.

President Chirac and Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, sought to smooth over differences at a dinner in Périgueux on Saturday night and the two are due to meet tomorrow to coordinate their approach to the Dublin summit.



Clarke: rejects claims

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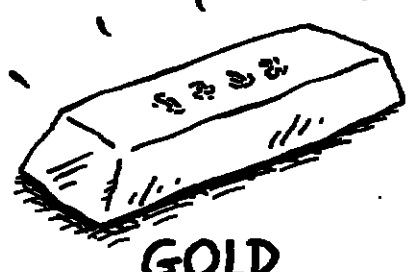
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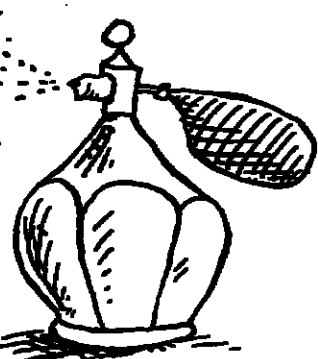
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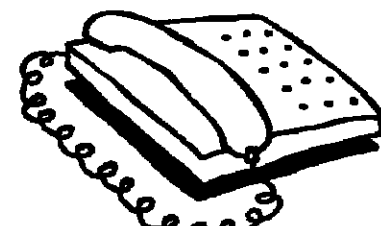
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FOXTM 01

Curfew imposed as mutineers fire on French forces

By BEN MACINTYRE

THE President of the Central African Republic imposed a curfew on Bangui, the capital, last night as fighting between mutinous army units and French-backed government troops spread and hundreds of residents fled the city.

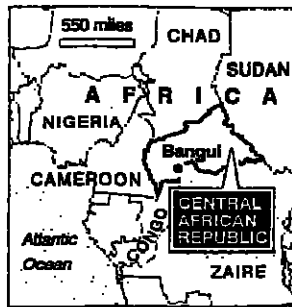
In a radio address President Patasse hinted that he would soon authorise a full-scale assault by the presidential guard to end the rebellion that began two weeks ago.

"In my position as commander-in-chief, I could have ordered military operations to bring this rebellion to an end, but it would have harmed civilians. Thus I was patient. I have two demands: lay down your arms immediately and without conditions," M. Patasse told the rebels.

Government troops and rebels exchanged heavy fire after rebels shot at patrolling French soldiers. Two civilians were killed in the crossfire and sporadic gunfire continued yesterday.

France has about 1,500 troops stationed in the republic and they have repeatedly intervened to keep M. Patasse in power. Dozens of people were killed when French troops crushed army rebellions in April and May.

French soldiers were yesterday supporting the presidential guard and securing strategic points throughout



Bangui, including the presidential palace. The rebel units have effectively been trapped in the southern and western parts of the city, military officials said yesterday as French warplanes flew over the city.

The mutiny began on November 15, when soldiers demanded back-pay and the resignation of the President. The rebellion has since evolved into a regional and tribal conflict, splitting the army between soldiers from M. Patasse's northern area and southerners loyal to General André Kolingba, the former President.

General Kolingba was defeated by M. Patasse in the country's first multiparty elections in 1993. The President has blamed the country's chaotic finances and the army's lack of pay on corruption by the previous military regime. The French military presence

has also fuelled the rebellion, with mutineers claiming M. Patasse is a Paris puppet.

Parts of the south of the country are already under rebel control and residents in the south and west of the city began fleeing south at the weekend, fearing an outbreak of tribal violence and an imminent attack by the presidential guard with French support.

The rebels say they have been denied several months of back-pay. "We demand the resignation of President Patasse and we are ready to put down our arms as soon as he leaves," Sergeant Christian Guere, a rebel spokesman, said. The rebels have issued a warning that they will open fire if French troops try to intervene in force.

M. Patasse was in Europe when the mutiny erupted. He returned to Bangui last Tuesday insisting that there would be no concessions to the rebels.

The funeral of Jean-Bedel Bokassa, the dictator and self-styled emperor of the Central African Republic, has been postponed due to the army mutiny. France's military bases in Bangui were crucial to French military intervention in Rwanda in 1994 and are likely to be used again if the United Nations authorises a multinational intervention force in eastern Zaire.

Hutus in Burundi clash with Tutsi-led militia

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

BURUNDI'S main Hutu rebel group said yesterday its forces were engaging Tutsi army positions in five main regions of the Central African nation and fierce fighting was sending thousands of refugees streaming into Tanzania.

Innocent Nimpagaritse, East Africa representative for the National Council for the Defence of Democracy, said fighting was raging in the provinces of Kayanza, rural Bujumbura, Bururi, Rutana and Ruyigi. He said the show of force by the Hutus proved that its forces were entrenched inside Burundi.

Earlier this week the Burundian Army reported fighting eight miles south of the capital Bujumbura. The three-year-old civil war pits Burundi's Tutsi-led military junta against rebels drawn from the majority Hutu tribe.

In a related development, a Zairean officer said yesterday that Ugandan troops had taken control of a strategic town in North Kivu province in northeast Zaire, raising fears of an escalation in cross-border incursions.

□ Envoy recalled: Zaire recalled Ramazani Baya, its Ambassador to France, after he was involved in a car accident in which two French boys were killed last week, a French Government spokesman said yesterday. (Reuters)



A refugee, shouldering his belongings, waits for transport near the border town of Gisenyi on his return home to Rwanda. About 10,000 a day have been leaving camps in eastern Zaire, where government forces are fighting separatists

Israel defiant as Arab League starts crisis talks

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

BINYAMIN NETANYAHU, the Israeli Prime Minister, declared yesterday that the Jordan Valley area of the occupied West Bank would remain forever a part of the Jewish state.

His declaration came as the Arab League held an emergency session in Cairo to consider strategies to halt Jewish settlement expansion in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In a statement issued by his office, Mr Netanyahu said that he had told settler representatives during a meeting "that the Government saw the Jordan Valley as inseparable from the state of Israel in any permanent agreement".

The statement also said that the Government was totally committed to the prosperity of the valley, including setting aside funds for developing infrastructure and roads "even in a tough budget year". David Levy, a Jordan Valley settler leader, said Mr Netanyahu had promised his group that 400 to 500 more homes for Jews would be made in the area.

Mr Netanyahu's commitment to maintain the area is certain to create more friction with Arab leaders, and the Palestinians who claim the West Bank for themselves.

Shortly before his statement, the Palestinian Authority gave a warning at the Arab League's meeting that Israel's policies would reignite violence in the region.

"Israel insists on ripping apart the West Bank to prevent the creation of a Palestinian state, but we are determined to defend our lands by all possible means against racist settlement plans," the authority said.

Syria's representative, Issa Darwish, told reporters that the international community had failed to make Israel adhere to UN resolutions on withdrawal from all occupied Arab lands.



Netanyahu promised 500 new settler homes

Hijack jet recordings denied to experts

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

BRITISH and American requests for access to the flight recordings of the hijacked Ethiopian Airlines plane that crashed off the Comoros islands have been turned down.

The Comoran authorities said at the weekend that they were seeking advice from international civil aviation authorities before releasing them to investigators. The plane crashed after running out of fuel, killing 125 people, including six Britons.

The "black box", which records cockpit communications, was recovered by divers and may contain information that could help investigators in their efforts to understand the hijacking and crash.

At the weekend two passengers detained for a week for questioning about the hijacking were hoping to leave the islands after being freed by police. Michael Odenyo, a Kenyan businessman, and Souleimane Ahmed Muhammad, a trade unionist from Djibouti, were wrongly identified as hijackers by survivors.

Cheikh Salim, a public prosecutor on the islands, said that Yonas Mekuria, the co-pilot, had identified two of the hijackers among the 125 bodies. The third is presumed to be among the victims.

Fire attack on priest

Rome: An Italian man poured petrol over a priest and set him on fire because he blamed him for his failed marriage. Pierfrancesco Caratelli, 28, was charged with attempted murder for the attack on Father Mario Torregrossa, 52, who had performed the marriage ceremony. (Reuters)

Crash sentence

Paris: A French court has jailed a teenager, 19, for seven years for planting a piece of metal on a railway line "just to see what would happen". A commuter train crashed, killing four people. (Reuters)

Café to go

Hobart: The Broad Arrow café at Port Arthur, Tasmania, where Martin Bryant murdered 20 of his 35 victims in a shooting spree last April, is to be dismantled. A memorial will be erected there. (AFP)

Bus tragedy

Damascus: Seventeen people, including six children, burnt to death and 20 people were injured after their bus blew a tyre, overturned and caught fire in northern Syria. (AP)

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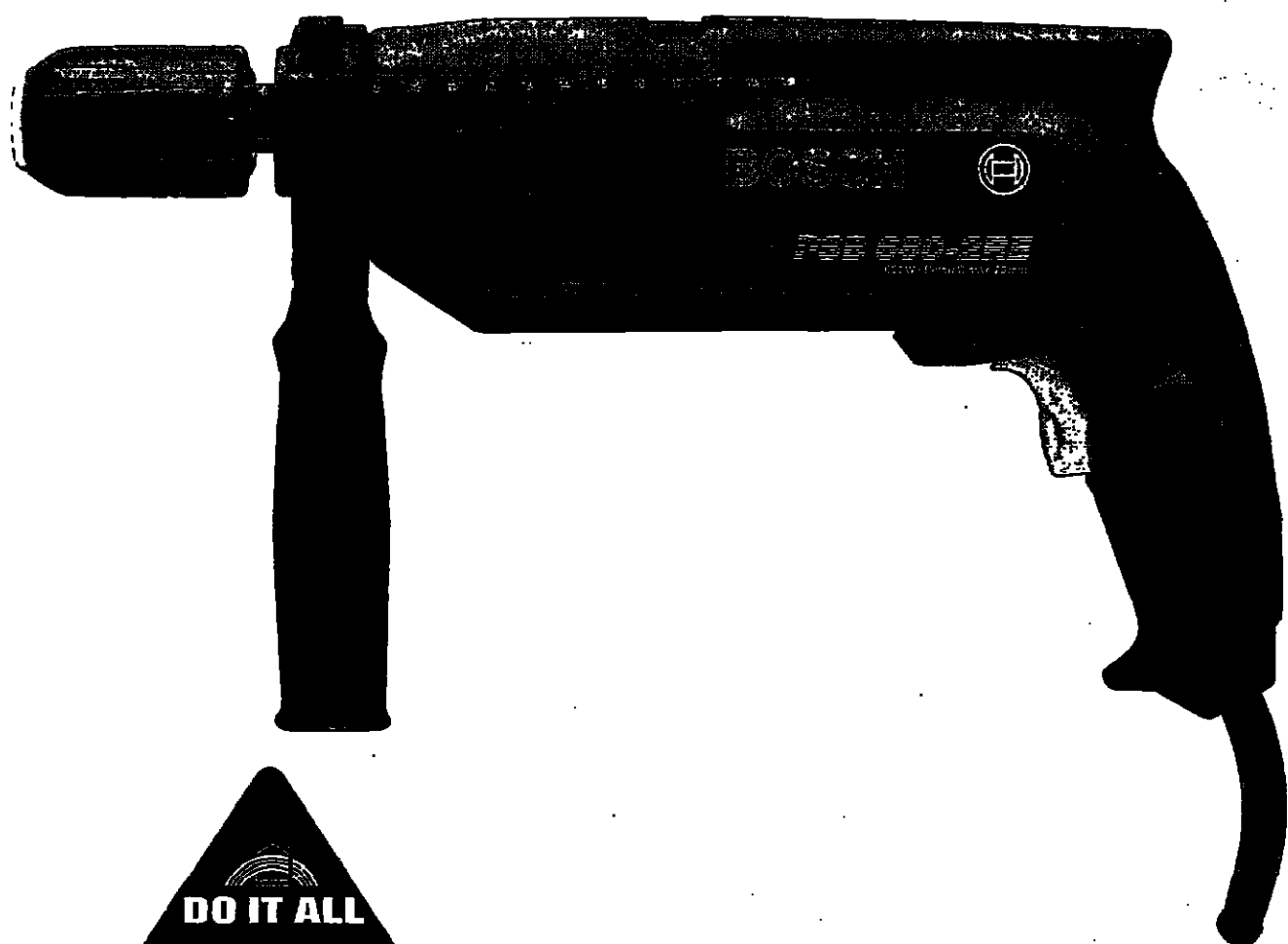
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After the tragedies in Wales and Scotland, Anjana Ahuja explains how such outbreaks are controlled

Detectives on the trail of disease

They lurk in food, in water systems, inside our own bodies, and even in hospitals, waiting to pounce on the vulnerable. There are thousands of different strains of bugs, many of them deadly. So it is a miracle that events as tragic as those which unfolded in Cardiff over the weekend, where two students died of meningitis, and in Scotland last week, where five people died in an outbreak of *E. coli* food poisoning, do not happen more often.

The rarity of such outbreaks is a tribute to an army of scientists toiling to keep the bugs at bay. Through its 50 laboratories throughout England and Wales, the Public Health Laboratory Service boasts hundreds of medical detectives ready to deal with any outbreak, whether an infectious disease such as measles or meningitis, an imported disease such as malaria, or food poisoning. In Scotland, this role is carried out by the Scottish Centre for Infection and Environmental Health.

The PHLS was set up after the Second World War to combat the threat of war-related epidemics. It is entrusted not only with containing outbreaks, but also with carrying out routine surveillance to keep track of diseases such as influenza. This allows any emerging strains to be identified as quickly as possible. Public health scientists constantly make checks to ensure that the current flu vaccines are still effective. Each year they, along with other scientists in major public health

laboratories around the world, report their findings to the World Health Organisation and vaccine makers. The PHLS also monitors water quality, and keeps tabs on the spread of the AIDS virus, HIV, and sexually transmitted diseases.

Monitoring a disease can often provide clues, or early warnings, that help to control it. PHLS figures show, for example, that last year cases of meningitis peaked in November, and then showed a second peak in January and February. They also show an increasing number of "clusters" of the disease, of which the

Any new strains are spotted as quickly as possible

Cardiff outbreak is typical, and that there have been increasing numbers of cases in which septicemia — blood poisoning — is a complication.

One suspicion voiced by Dr Norman Begg, deputy director of the Service's communicable disease surveillance centre, is that increased smoking among teenagers may have contributed to the rise in cases. "There is a very complex relationship between meningococcal disease and smoking," he says, when he presented the figures in Jan-

uary. "We know more children are smoking."

Meningitis, in spite of the clusters of cases that have been observed, is usually a sporadic disease. Much clearer patterns emerge in food poisoning episodes. The small, detectable chain of events is the PHLS detectives' swing into action.

Imagine that you have gone to your family doctor with a case of suspected food poisoning. A specimen is taken and sent to your local hospital laboratory. From that specimen, the local laboratory grows the offending organism.

The organism, together with a profile of the patient, is then sent to the Central Public Health Laboratory in north London, the nerve centre of the PHLS operation. Here, the organism is "fingerprinted" within days and compared with strains of various bugs.

In addition to the central laboratory, there are reference centres which specialise in one type of organism (salmonella, for example). These centres keep samples of every strain known to science. Your local hospital and your GP is then informed of the result and, if appropriate, the environmental health department.

Meanwhile, the PHLS monitors how often this germ has cropped up. Dr Noel Gill, the deputy director of the organisation's Communicable Diseases Surveillance Centre, describes an example of the way in which the PHLS goes into action.

"In the final week of January last year, the samples of one particular bug, *Salmonella agona*, had gone from one every two weeks to five in the same week," Dr Gill says. A cluster of cases is called a sentinel event.

"In these events, we then

look at the characteristics of each case, such as the places affected. Also, if just infants are involved, we would look at baby food. If it was a rural area, we might suspect unpasteurised milk," he says.

In the mysterious case of *Salmonella agona*, the incidents occurred only in Leeds and north London, and one researcher noticed that the patients, all of them children, had Jewish surnames. Could a kosher foodstuff be the culprit?

This, Dr Gill says, was the signal to move the investigation up a gear, by asking the

parents to list in meticulous detail what their child had eaten the previous week. One kosher snack food, manufactured in Israel, kept cropping up.

"This is when we got quite excited," Dr Gill recalls. "We jumped in a car and drove to Golders Green in north London to meet the families. They were orthodox, which heightened suspicion even more."

The next stage was to conduct an epidemiological study, by interviewing "control" households. These are house-

holds unaffected by any outbreak. How were suitable families found?

Parents of the patients were asked to nominate similar families, and these nominated families were questioned about food they had eaten. As expected, none of the healthy children had eaten the snack.

The evidence was becoming compelling — a laboratory test turned up definitive proof. Once the source of the food scare was identified, the Department of Health issued a

public warning. However, the salmonella saga, now five days old, was to take on an unusual twist. Dr Gill's colleagues decided to alert public health scientists in New York, which has a large Jewish community, and Israel, where the snack was produced.

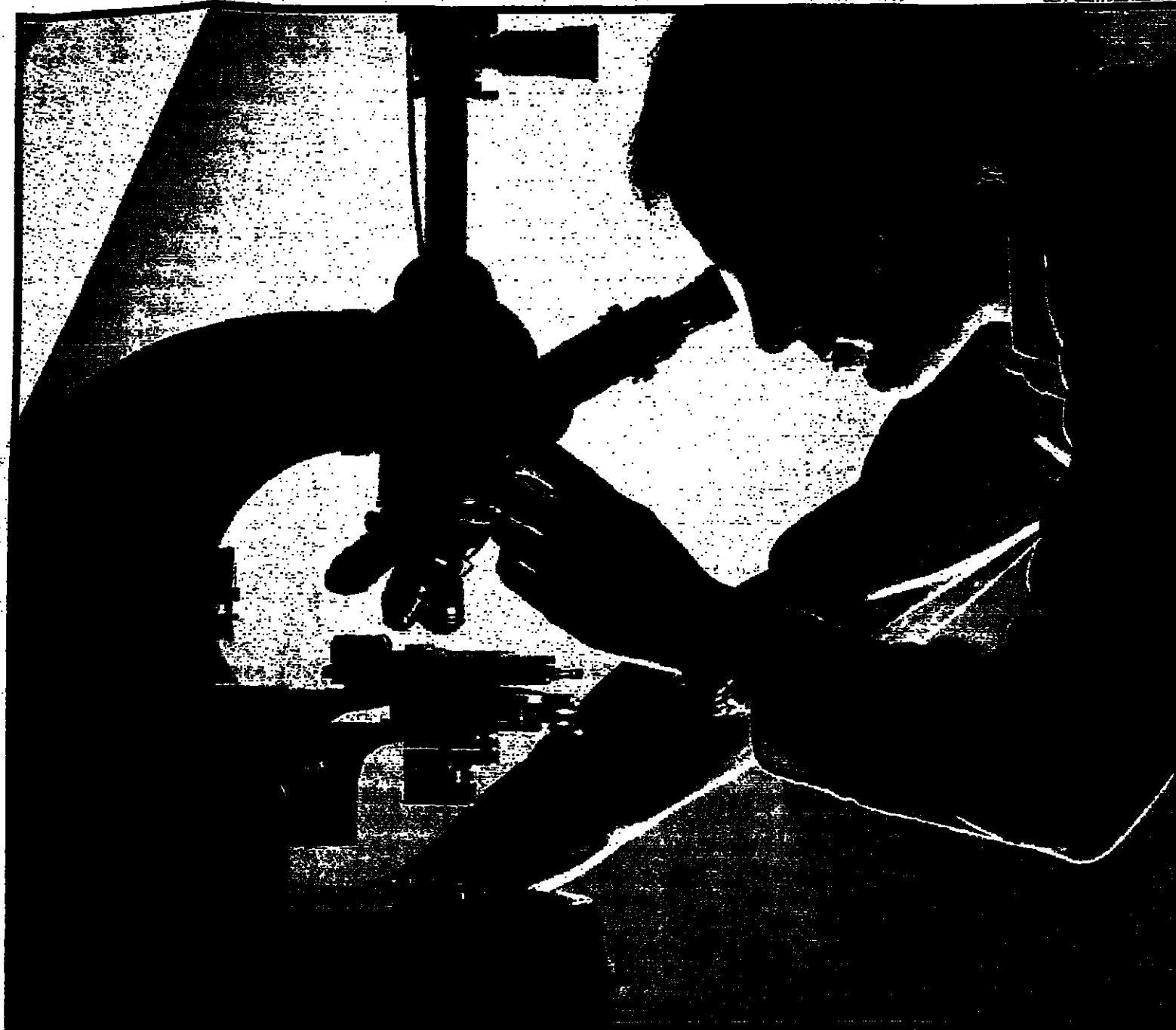
Via a series of e-mails, they discovered that Israel was three months into a severe outbreak of food poisoning.

"Thousands of people had gone down with exactly the same symptoms as in Britain and New York," Dr Gill says. "They thought it was some-

thing in chicken feed, and hadn't thought of this snack at all. If that happened in Britain, there would be a scandal."

The statistics associated with the PHLS, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, are indeed impressive. Among its 3,000 staff, there are scientific officers, clinical microbiologists, statisticians and epidemiologists. They examine about 25,000 human specimens and environmental samples a day.

"Even I am stunned at the level of surveillance the PHLS provides," Dr Gill says.



On the trail: the Public Health Laboratory Service has 50 bases in England and Wales staffed with hundreds of medical investigators

Universities where science flourishes □ People born to anxiety □ Tracking a chemical building block

Two cheers for Oxbridge

OXFORD, Cambridge and Imperial College may have the most scientists in Britain, but not necessarily the best, a new assessment of research quality suggests.

The universities of Glasgow, Dundee, Durham, Leicester, Hull, Strathclyde, Edinburgh, York, the City University in London, and the Open University all come top in at least one discipline.

The figures come from the Institute for Scientific Information, a Philadelphia-based organisation that bases its assessments on a huge database of published scientific papers. The quality of the papers is measured by counting the number of times they are cited by other scientists: a

valuable paper will have many such citations, a trivial one hardly any.

If the total number of citations in any field is counted, Oxford and Cambridge do well, coming top in 12 out of 21 fields studied. But a different result emerges when the rankings are based on citations per paper.

Then the quality of many smaller universities emerges. In physics, for example, the top three in total citations are

Cambridge, Oxford and Imperial College, in that order.

But the top three in citations per paper are Glasgow, Lancaster, and Sussex. Glasgow also came first in engineering, while Dundee tops the tables in biology and biochemistry and in molecular biology.

Durham is top in astrophysics and mathematics, while Hull leads the list in materials science, the Open University in geosci-

ences, City University in computer science and York in education. Cambridge has only one top placing, in chemistry, while Oxford has four.

The tables are to be published in the next issue of *Science Watch*, the journal published by the ISI. The organisation explains that the results are not to be taken as an evaluation of individual departments, but many researchers in smaller universities will nonetheless be delighted to see their ratings are high. They are likely to use them to fight growing pressure to concentrate research in "elite" institutions, which in general are the bigger ones.

Watch this space for hydrogen

WITH a sigh of relief, two astronomers have finally located in space the characteristic signature of a hydrogen ion with three protons in it. For a long time theory has held that this ion, known as hydrogen-three-plus, or H³⁺, plays a key part in the formation of the many chemical species that are found in space. But H³⁺ itself proved to be very elusive.

Normal hydrogen molecules consist of two atoms, each with a single proton and a single electron. H³⁺ has three protons and two elec-

trons, leaving it with a positive electrical charge. It is, effectively, an electrically charged molecule which can be fairly easily made in the laboratory. Sixteen years ago Dr Takeshi Oka, of the University of Chicago, measured the infrared spectrum of H³⁺ in the laboratory, and started looking for it in space.

In *Nature*, he and Dr Thomas Geballe of the Joint Astronomy Centre in Hilo, Hawaii report that they have finally found it. Using the UK Infrared Telescope they found very faint signs of H³⁺ in two interstellar clouds. The amounts they found fit with theories of how rapidly the molecule is made by the action of cosmic rays on ordinary hydrogen molecules. Without the reactive H³⁺ it is hard to see how many more complex molecules in space would be made.



SCIENCE BRIEFING
Nigel Hawkes

Don't fret about worry, it's all in your genes

ANXIOUS? Fretful? Blame your genes. Scientists have identified a stretch of DNA that contributes to the differing levels of anxiety felt by different people.

They already knew that the DNA on chromosome 17, was responsible for switching on a nearby gene that in turn codes for a protein that transports the neurotransmitter serotonin back into brain cells so they can use it again. Preventing this re-uptake of serotonin is the basis of action of

the anti-depressant Prozac. Two versions of this promoter gene exist, a long and a short. People with the shorter version have lower levels of the serotonin transport protein, so it seemed reasonable to Drs Klaus-Peter Lesch, of Wurtzburg University, and Dr Dennis Murphy, of the US National Institutes of Health, to investigate whether they were also more anxious. They recruited 505 people, and found that half had the long form and half the short. The volunteers all completed a questionnaire about their personalities which showed, the scientists report in *Sci-*

ence, that indeed people with the short version were more likely to admit to worrying a lot, and said they were often tense and jittery.

The promoter does not account for more than a small part of the variation in anxiety — roughly 8 per cent — but this is significant. "It won't be long before we know whether it's related to psychiatric diseases like phobia or panic disorders," says Dr David Goldman, a geneticist at the US National Institutes of Health. The odds are that there are other genes which also contribute, along with the experience of life.



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I always want total control

Barbra Streisand on why she had to direct her new film — and how she always checks out a new man with his Mom. Interview by Mal Vincent

Barbra Streisand is above all a performer. With a flash of the eye, she checked the lights as she entered the room for the interview. A publicist, eagerly seeking approval, suggested they couldn't have been better for Marlene Dietrich.

"No, Marlene would have the lights over there, and not so high," Streisand countered, pointing with a manicured nail. Streisand probably would know exactly where Dietrich would have had the lights. She's been called obsessive, egomaniacal, driven, demanding, and worse. There were 15 walkouts and firings from the set of *The Mirror Has Two Faces*, her first film in five years, and the third that she has directed. She also composed parts of the music and, of course, stars. "I used to be embarrassed and defensive about that word, 'control'," she says. "Of course I want total control. The audience buys my work because I have complete control — because I'm a perfectionist. I care deeply."

"I have to think it's a sexist attitude — definitely. A man who did what I do would be called thorough. But that's the way it has to be — until it changes." Wearing a black dress with a black-ribbon choker, she looked smaller and more demure than a show business titan. "Of all of it, directing, acting, singing, this is the hardest," she says. "Doing an interview is the hardest — talking about myself and trying to intellectualise things I do. I act by instinct. Who can talk about it?"

Today, though, she is talking about herself. Once she told me: "I made it without getting a nose job. Write that. Write it down. Not many can say it." Now she reflects on the self-deprecating way she looks at herself. In *The Mirror Has Two Faces* she plays a college professor of romantic literature who has given up on romance, until she meets a burnt-out maths professor who is tired of the rigours of physical attraction. "It's a throwback to my old films, particularly *Funny Girl*," she says, "and it's a little about me. People have always talked about how I looked, and none of it too favourable. Once my stepfather said I couldn't have ice-cream because I was too ugly. My mother never told me I was smart, pretty — anything. When I told her I wanted to be a movie star, she said I wasn't pretty enough."

"We live in a society where

all these skinny models are thrown up at us as the ideal. We're told we have to look a certain way... Love should come from the heart, not the eye. That's what the movie is about."

Barbra Joan Streisand, 54, was born in a rough section of Brooklyn. Her father, Emanuel, a high school teacher, died when she was 15 months old and she was brought up by her grandmother. Asked to name the hardest time in her life, she doesn't hesitate. "Childhood. Definitely. I was an outcast. I was this strange kid, growing up with one parent. I had one date in high school. I had a 98 average, but I wanted to be an actress. The school called my mother in to talk to her about why I wasn't going to college. I started

James Brolin, actor and sportsman.

She reached Broadway stardom in *Funny Girl* and won an Oscar for her film debut of it in 1968. A few years later, she was worth \$100 million (£66 million) — the highest-paid woman in show business. "There was a line in *Funny Girl* about how you had to ask for a great deal of money if you wanted any respect. I learnt that. I've had to give up my profits to get the movies I most wanted to make produced — *Yentl* and *The Prince of Tides*."

She's been known to require dozens of takes to get a scene right. Walter Matthau, who co-starred with her in *Hello, Dolly*, once said: "I was appalled at every move she made." Dudley Moore was fired, reportedly because he couldn't remember his lines, and replaced by George Segal in *The Mirror Has Two Faces*. Of the 14 others who left, "creative differences" were listed as the cause. In New York, during the worst winter on record, she ran over budget. She denies the story that she once asked the assistant director why he couldn't move the sun to put it in the right place.

There was a misunderstanding, too, about us filming a new ending," she said. "We didn't. We went back to film Central Park with leaves in the trees. It was costing us \$8,000 a tree to paste the leaves on during the winter." Bridges says: "I know Barbra as a courageous kind of person — not a person without fear."

Streisand says she sought Bridges because "I liked his work in other films and I think he has a great mom. She's outspoken and bright and he gets along well with her. From that, I thought he'd be easy to direct," she laughs. "In dating, a woman should check on how the man gets along with his mother. That will tell their attitude toward women." Initially, *The Mirror Has Two Faces* was about a woman who went through plastic surgery and changes her appearance. "That was cut right away. I wasn't concerned with outward, cosmetic changes. We turned it from a French melodrama into an American comedy-romance."

It is Lauren Bacall, as Streisand's youth-obsessed and looks-obsessed mother, who has received the best reviews and is mentioned as an Oscar nominee. "I first met Barbra on the opening night of *Funny Girl*," Bacall says. "From that night, she was a



Barbra Streisand with Jon Peters

dressing funny and bleached my hair. I was a real oddball. "I'd go to the movies every Saturday, and lose myself. Sure, there were great stars like Vivien Leigh, but the accepted norm was more Sandra Dee — girls with tiny little noses and blonde hair. Stars like Humphrey Bogart and Spencer Tracy didn't have to be conventionally handsome. The demands were different."

At 18, she won a talent contest at a Greenwich Village nightclub — singing. She stole the show in a supporting role for the Broadway musical *I Can Get It For You Wholesale* and married the leading man, Elliott Gould. (She has one son, Jason Gould, who appeared under her direction in *The Prince of Tides*.) Streisand's marriage to Gould ended in divorce. She's been romantically linked with such varied types as Jon Peters, Don Johnson, Omar Sharif, André Agassi, Steven Spielberg and the former Canadian Prime Minister, Pierre Trudeau. For the past four months, she's been dating



"People have always talked about how I looked, and none of it too favourable. Once my stepfather said I couldn't have ice-cream because I was too ugly"

star. I went over and told her 'You're so damned good, I think maybe I should slap you.' Almost 30 years later, Bacall went to Streisand's New York apartment to talk about the role in *Mirror*. "She was very much the director. Very professional," Bacall says. "She asked 'Do you think you could be my mother?' I told her that I could, and that was that." Streisand says she first saw Bacall in *To Have and Have Not*. "I was amazed that she never thought she was beautiful. Many beautiful women are like that."

Streisand asked both Robert Zemeckis and Herbert Ross to direct *Mirror* but they declined. Ross, who directed her in *The Owl and the Pussycat*, says: "The reasons for her popularity have changed over the years. She has become an Establishment figure. Time

'It cost us \$8,000 a tree to paste the leaves on in winter'

does that to every rebel." "I was interested in directing from the first moment I stepped on a movie set," she says. "I have no problem directing myself. I fight with myself rather than anyone else. The director demands the actress deliver, and I have to deliver." As for *The Mirror Has Two Faces*, she says: "There is a lot of me in it. I learnt like Rose, that I can be the best I can be and not be obsessed with looks. I wish I had seen a movie like this when I was a teenager."

● *The Mirror Has Two Faces* Opens on January 10.
● Adapted from an article which first appeared in *The Virginian-Pilot*

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In the drug-blighted city of Svetlogorsk, one in 20 of the population is predicted to die in

The city that is dying of Aids



A cursed generation: two newlyweds place a tribute on a monument for the men of Svetlogorsk who died in Afghanistan. In the city's second wave of Aids, young women such as this are at great risk of contracting HIV through sex

Twenty-year-old Olya giggled nervously on the hospital bed as she tensed her left arm and searched the bruised and pockmarked skin for a clean entry point to her vein. Looking over her shoulder to make sure that no nurses were watching, she plunged the needle into her arm and slowly fed the caramel-brown liquid into her body.

Like thousands of other drug addicts in this blighted industrial city in southern Belarus, Olya, for the third time that day, had found peace and escape from the misery of her life.

The hectoring voices of her parents, the guilt she feels about abandoning her three-and-a-half-year-old daughter, Tanya, and the fate of her missing, drug-addicted husband, Zhernya, drained away into a heroin-induced oblivion.

The world once again seemed bearable.

Olya and her fellow patient Sveta, also 20, are, by the grim reckoning of the doctors and nurses who treat them in this town's only hospital, unlikely ever to survive beyond their 30th birthdays. They are just two of the victims of what is emerging as one of the worst Aids epidemics ever recorded in the world.

Were you to search the European continent for a community that has suffered so much in its short history, it would be hard, with the exception of the war-ravaged areas of the former Yugoslavia, to find anywhere as cursed as Svetlogorsk.

It is not just the grim Soviet industrial landscape and the town's chemical factory, spewing pollutants into the air, that make the city exceptional. Nor is it the legacy of the

Chernobyl nuclear disaster, which covered this area of Belarus in radioactive fallout, and which still contaminates the forests and rivers around the city and spreads cancer among the young.

What makes Svetlogorsk unique is that it is now in the grip of a deadly Aids epidemic, which, like some medieval plague, threatens in the coming years to wipe out about one in every 20 members of the population.

"We expected something bad here, but we never thought it would hit us so fast and on such a huge scale," says Doctor Svyatoslav Samoshkin, the city's deputy chief doctor, who runs an anti-Aids programme from the dilapidated hospital. "Sometimes I still can't quite believe it is happening. Why us?"

In part, at least, the reasons for the rapid spread of the disease must lie in Svetlogorsk's disastrous social conditions. The city was founded in 1961 during the Khrushchev era as a model Soviet community.

Young couples from 28 different ethnic backgrounds were recruited from around the Soviet Union with the promise of cheap housing, good jobs and a stable future. However, among those who were attracted to the town were workers from Central Asia, who brought with them the traditional skills of harvesting poppies for opium and heroin use.

In addition, the city authorities drafted in petty criminals, known as "khimiki" (chemical workers), who instead of going to prison, were pressed into service at the town's main chemical factory.

Not surprisingly the experiment in social engineering was a complete failure. The city had a built-in criminal underclass, uprooted families living in an unfamiliar environment, packed into a landscape of drab high-rise



On the bleak streets of Svetlogorsk. The city was planned as a communist paradise, but it became a hell on earth

concrete apartment blocks and dependent for work on the chemicals factory, the paper mill and the power station. To add to its woes the area received the full impact of Chernobyl. Much of the wood used by the paper mill was heavily contaminated, and the city's meagre health resources were stretched to breaking point by the effects of the radiation, particularly thyroid cancer among children.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the relaxation of border constraints meant that diseases such as Aids were more easily imported, and without the iron discipline of

Peasant women and drug dealers mix in the streets

the Soviet police state, drug dealing became much easier, particularly across the border from Ukraine.

The first sign of the impending calamity came in late May, when a 20-year-old railway worker and drug addict travelled to Minsk to try to kick his habit at a psy-

chiatric hospital. He and his wife both tested positive to HIV. The medical authorities, who had already been alerted to the spread of the disease in neighbouring Ukraine, immediately ordered widespread testing for HIV among drug users in Svetlogorsk.

The results were devastating. Of the 220 officially regis-

tered drug addicts, half tested HIV positive in June. By August the figure had risen to 370 and by the middle of November the authorities reported that some 950 people, in a city of 73,000, were positive.

The real figure is much higher, and it is widely accepted that half of the estimated

6,000 drug users have now contracted the virus.

Drug addicts in this part of eastern Europe inject themselves with a substance known as *makovaya solomka*, better known by its nickname "mak", a resinous extract of poppy which has become a poor man's heroin.

The drug has been made locally for years, usually by

small groups of users who harvest the poppies. However, as demand increased, a lucrative business emerged, with the drug manufactured in large quantities and distributed, often by gypsy families, to dealers who sell it on the street for about £1 for a single dose.

It is widely suspected that the HIV epidemic was caused partly out of ignorance of the dangers of sharing needles, but also because small quantities of blood were commonly used to increase the potency of the narcotic.

Everywhere today. Dirty needles litter playgrounds and entrance halls of the crumbling apartment blocks. Even at the hospital ward reserved for drug addicts, where teenagers are tested and treated for hepatitis and other diseases, the pushers still peddle little brown bottles of the drug through the windows to the patients.

In Svetlogorsk's main street, the dealers have overrun a small fruit and vegetable market. As old women in peasant scarves sell cabbage and pickles from little stalls, they sit incongruously beside clusters of young men and women in leather jackets, their pockets bulging with bank notes.

"This is worse than Chernobyl. Then we came together against the threat. Now our city is divided. They are killing it," says Raisa, a

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■ OPERA

Plácido Domingo sings his first Wagner in London, in *Die Walküre* at Covent Garden
PERFORMANCE: Friday
REVIEW: Monday



■ POP

Return of Mod rule: the Who revive *Quadrophenia* in concert at Earls Court
GIG: Friday
REVIEW: Monday



■ DANCE

Hutu and Tutsi perform together as the National Ballet of Rwanda comes to the Barbican
SHOW: Saturday
PREVIEW: Tomorrow



■ RECITAL

American baritone Thomas Hampson sings an evening of Carl Loewe songs at the Wigmore Hall
CONCERT: Saturday
REVIEW: Next week

ARTS
TUESDAY TO
FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

Oh no! Not another bleat about raising the BBC's licence fee! Baa. And not by this party who works for them for pity's sake. Too many insider dealings lately. All of them at it. Did you see that sixtieth anniversary charade? Distressing. Men Behaving Badly? You bet. And do they have to be commedial and must they go digital and why on earth are they into everything and aren't the writers and producers up in arms and shouldn't it stay like it was?

The BBC is a national punchbag. Sometimes it deserves a thump or two. It is also a national asset. Sometimes we all need to know that.

The problem is that those who write about the BBC either work for the BBC or have worked for the BBC or want to work for the BBC or have been refused work by the BBC or want to topple the BBC. There is not an uncoloured view in the land.

The BBC has cried wolf so many times over the years that the sheep

A round of applause for a favourite Auntie

have become entirely blasé. They do not even lift their heads. Its arrogance can be irritating and rashly wounding to other broadcasters. It can be maddening to work for. I am told, and infuriating to compete against. In its great strengths and silly, often avoidable weaknesses, it is wholly British and it deserves the best shot we can give it. At the moment it deserves our backing in its push for a significant increase in funding.

The sole reason for this is the quality of its programmes. As a programme-maker I am continuously suspicious of anyone who puts the organisation of the system above the attention which must be paid to talent. As a contributor to the BBC on Radio 4, I find it exemplary: focused, skilful, dedicated. As a recipient of BBC gossip and static, I hear that these are

troubled times. But the programmes keep coming through in quality, in numbers and in variety and so something has to be right. It was the example of the BBC which made ITV just as unique in its own way as the Great Corporation. ITV is a very successful commercial and public service channel found nowhere else on the planet.

The example of BBC2 helped to conjure a commercially-based Channel 4 into its successfully radical remit. Given adequate financial clout — and the strength of its funding is one of the key differences between the BBC and other world broadcasting systems — it could have an equally influential and beneficial effect on the uncertain qualities in prospect for our multichannel future.

Alone in the television galaxy the BBC makes a critical mass of

MELVYN BRAGG



programmes from a different basic "given" than that of everyone else. Commercial pressures of one sort or another apply to all the rest of us and they can and do produce programmes every bit as fine as

those on the BBC. But, to quote Michael Grade, the BBC keeps us honest and its best ambitions ensure that we have a premier programme-making league in this country across the board.

To put forward a crude argument: in the current context, where paying for television (at a high level in some cases) is accepted and growing, the BBC's two TV channels, its five national radio and innumerable local radio stations, its orchestras, educational spin-offs and World Service achievements are a bargain and would still be a bargain at £100 and even £120 or £150. There are problems with payment for the poor and these have to be addressed, but it is well within the wit of a willing government to do so. But for the vast majority of viewers and listeners, the BBC, were it a share, would be a snip at the price.

For more than two thirds of a century, despite vanities and fripperies and inevitable errors, the BBC has not really let us down. The whole issue to me has a touch of the absurd. The BBC is far more popular and enduring than this or any other government.

The BBC's executives have taken some tough decisions lately and have taken on tough targets. BBC programme-makers have sustained a fighting front, despite all the rumblings and grumblings behind the line. Surely there is no sustainable argument against giving them the modest increase which would enable them to continue and extend a most remarkable spread of work?

The musical *Saturday Night Fever* is entering the theatrical lists for the first time next summer in London. It has

had a curious career. It began when the entrepreneur Robert Stigwood spotted an essay in *Time* magazine, on the strength of that he set up a small-budget film, discovering this young newcomer Travolta. Desperate for music he rang the Bee Gees, whom he had discovered a week after their arrival in London, and they sent over a few songs they had been recording in France: *Stayin' Alive*, *Night Fever*, that sort of thing. They neither read the script nor saw the film — a couple of them have not seen the full film yet.

Last week, filming with them in Miami, they told me that the LP was the biggest-seller ever in the world at around 50 million copies and a few more will surely change hands when *Fever* hits the streets of the city now described as the world's capital of fun, entertainment and arts. They also told me that an early title of the film — *Night Fever* — was rejected by Stigwood because he thought it would be too "pornographic". Times do change.

The lamb in wolf's clothing

A collected edition of Larry Lamb's tales from stage and screen would trace a 25-year journey from amateur dramatics in Libya to his latest West End lead, via Nova Scotia, New York and various points south.

The latest leg of this world tour finds the 49-year-old actor standing on a table in the basement of the American Church in central London. Arms outstretched, he is encircled by half a dozen young actresses, fellow members of the company rehearsing for *Nine*, the Broadway musical based on Federico Fellini's 8½. Tokyo-based David Leveaux, back in London after his searing *Salome* at the Coliseum in May, directs, and Lamb takes the Marcello Mastroianni role of the forty-something film director whose marriage and career are on the brink of collapse.

Confronted with Lamb's dark-eyed good looks and heavy-limbed frame, you picture him exuding Cockney bravado as not one, but two Great Train Robbers (Bruce Reynolds in *Buster* and Ronnie Biggs in the BBC film, *Slipper*), plus the Brink-Mat villain Kenneth Noye in ITV's

THEATRE:
Daniel Rosenthal
meets the unlikely
star of the Fellini
musical, *Nine*

1992 *Fool's Gold*; or perhaps aboard a North Sea ferry in three series of *Triangle* (of which more later). None of these parts, he concedes, nor impressive credits in plays by Wedekind, Sam Shepard et al, marked him out as an obvious choice for *Nine*.

"I have a decent singing voice, and after listening to a tape of *Nine* before the audition, I thought I could have a decent crack at Guido," he explains. "But this is my first musical, and when I started working with a singing coach in October there were, let's say, a few minor obstacles to overcome."

Fellini's surreal self-portrait of the artist in midlife crisis was adapted by Maury Yeston and Arthur Kopit in 1982. 19 years after it earned Fellini his third Oscar for Best Foreign Film. Titled *Nine* for contrac-

tual reasons (and, suggests Lamb, "because *Eight-and-a-half* just doesn't scan"), it opened on Broadway with the late Raul Julia as Guido and won the Tony for best musical, since when numerous attempts to mount a London production have failed.

Nine retains 8½'s most memorable characters (fans of Sarraghina, the dancing whore, should book now) while adding some marvellous, original touches. "This is more a homage than a stage adaptation," says Lamb, rejecting comparison with this year's ill-fated RSC version of *Les Enfants du Paradis*. "Aspects of 8½ are used to create a piece of musical theatre which is funnier than the film, but just as dark. Comparisons between me and Mastroianni — who is a master — will inevitably be drawn. All I can do is try not to impersonate him."

No hints of Mastroianni, then, but Lamb's Guido will contain "elements" of Alberto Sordi, the man who co-directed one of Fellini's earliest films — thereby putting one of the halves into 8½ (Fellini had seven solo credits, plus three collaborations worth half a point each). "I worked with



No hiding place: the actor Larry Lamb is more used to playing Great Train Robbers on screen than a womanising Italian film director on stage

Lattuada for eight months on an Eighties mini-series about Columbus and saw that Italian directors do operate like Guido. They are gods on their movies. Nothing happens unless they want it to."

Married and divorced three times, Lamb now talks of a "calm, settled" private life. His past, however, offers "plenty to draw on" when playing a womaniser. "Guido has wife, mistress and another one coming down the pipe. He has a lot of plates spinning, this boy, and I was once a great plate-spinner. Not any more." At which point a polite shake of the head indicates the time has come to talk of other things.

His inability to master A-level chemistry having scuppered teenage dreams of becoming a doctor, Lamb left his North London grammar school determined "to see the world and avoid a humdrum existence". Germany was his first stop, selling encyclopaedias to American servicemen. "I was a hopeless salesman, just chatting to prospective buyers. Then an American friend decided I should be an actor and dragged me along to an army drama club in Bremerhaven. I ended up as Henry VIII in *A Man for All Seasons*. Acting lit something in me."

His return to England coincided with the Seventies oil boom, and he trained with Esso as a corrosion control engineer. Posted to Libya, he joined the 3,000-strong British community's thriving am-dram scene. "I would be flown 60 miles into the desert to work on the oil fields, then flown back for evening rehearsals. I remember doing a weird parlour drama called *Goodnight, Mrs Puffin*.

"I went to work for another oil firm, in Pennsylvania, and after a while I got promoted and sent to Nova Scotia. Aged 27, I was earning fabulous money — the equivalent of £3,000 a week."

Whatever flame had been lit in Germany convinced him to give up these riches and turn

“Funnier than the film, but just as dark”

professional. He won a season with the Shakespeare Festival Theatre in Stratford, Ontario, rubbing shoulders with the "incredibly supportive" Maggie Smith and Jessica Tandy. Six months on Broadway in Trevor Griffiths's *Comedians*, directed by Mike Nichols, could have paved the way to indefinite residence in the United States, but Lamb was unwilling "to take on the

outer shell of an American", and headed home.

A steady stream of stage and television roles soon developed, which brings us back to BBC's 1981-83 soap, *Triangle*. You remember *Triangle*? First Officer Lamb locking horns and lips with boss's daughter Kate O'Mara as they ploughed the, er, tempestuous waters between England, Holland and Sweden. Some actors might resent being reminded of their part in a drama regarded as a Grade A turkey. Not Lamb. With the unaffected enthusiasm and charm which have made him such good company, he is off and running.

"*Triangle* meant reasonable money and a good time on location. I would have been stupid to turn it down. Having been in it becomes more and more of a distinction." Even though it featured in the 1992 BBC theme night devoted to *TV Hell*? "Not only was it included, it was the only series to merit not just a clip, but a whole episode."

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Matthew Parris



Exeter Tories have chosen a hater of homosexuals as their candidate. What is the proper response?

Suppose you were a Jewish Tory — a supposition which, for readers who are Jewish Tories, may not require too great an imaginative leap. And suppose a local Tory association chose as its parliamentary candidate a man who described your people as "godforsaken" and worse. What would you do?

Let me propose three options. Leave the Tory party and call on all people everywhere to vote for another; or, stay but recommend voters in this constituency not to vote for him; or, insist that Conservatives should always vote Tory, but urge the party to reconsider its choice of candidate in this case.

Were a hypothetical Jewish Tory to choose the third option, we would think him a very restrained fellow. Party members would give him a respectful hearing, grateful for his decision to stay loyal, stay on board, and work from within.

David Allen, chairman of the Tory Campaign for Homosexual Equality is such a man. As vice-president of the campaign I joined some 15 years ago, I offer him total support. Mr Allen was posed a difficult question and gave the right answer. The decision of Exeter Conservative Association to select Dr Adrian Rogers as their prospective candidate was an insult to millions of people, including many thousands in Exeter.

Dr Rogers has described homosexuality as a "sterile, disease-ridden godforsaken occupation" and advocated its criminalisation and the proscription by law of all establishments where gay men or lesbians meet. If this were just a personal view, held in all conscience and offered in response to inquiry, he might not deserve targeting. But he never ceases to volunteer it, made a career within the Conservative Family Campaign by expressing it, and couches his views in such hateful and intemperate language as to attract personal publicity. It is his crusade. People have a right to crusade, but they must expect flak; and those who select them as candidates must ask whether this flak will be helpful in a marginal seat containing a large university.

I first met David Allen when he was a student at Exeter. I had gone there as a Tory MP to take part in a debate on homosexual equality. That was more than a decade ago. At Exeter last week, Angela Mason, director of the Stonewall lobbying group, debated the same question with Dr Rogers. Mr Allen spoke from the floor. Angela Mason made her case in her calm and dignified way. Mr Allen said it was at Exeter that he had first made love to someone of his own sex. Dr Rogers said he should turn him- self in to a police station.

It is good for candidates to be crusaders, but they must expect criticism

Mr Allen will now suffer the fate of all who steer a middle course: he will be attacked from both sides. Because he refused to recommend any Tory not to vote for Dr Rogers, elements in the gay media are vilifying him as being akin (in their words) to "a Jew who urges others to vote for the Nazis". Because he refuses to lead any campaign himself against Dr Rogers's candidacy, but says that is for Exeter Conservatives to consider, he is called feeble. And from the Tory moral Right, which would love to see our campaign for homosexual equality expelled from the party, he is attacked for causing trouble.

From all this he should take comfort. If he were to recommend any voter not to vote for any Tory candidate, he would give the moral Right just the ammunition it wants: David Allen's purpose is the opposite: to win votes for his party. He is entitled to warn Exeter Conservatives that they are going the wrong way about it.

And they should understand that this story is not going to go away. Exeter, where 3 per cent can swing the outcome, is the constituency where the previous Labour candidate was thrown out for having allegedly expedited the conviction of an anti-apartheid activist hanged in South Africa, and where the new Labour candidate (a BBC journalist) has recently announced that he is gay. I am tempted to suggest that since Exeter homophobes are already unlikely to be voting Labour, Exeter Tories might turn their minds to finding a candidate who does not repel the other 95 per cent.

As tonight's vote on the future of Sir Nicholas Scott demonstrates, there is a growing readiness to insist that a parliamentary candidate's personal or ideological profile matters, and both his supporters and his critics should welcome that. Far from being a modern idea, this is the old-fashioned way. It restores the importance of the individual backbencher. It is grit in the engine of the internal party machine, with its dreary slates.

To bring single-issue debates and their protagonists back within the fold of the great parties is to refresh them, however inconvenient their managers may find it. The trend means that both progressives and traditionalists are likely to have platforms, and we who think Dr Rogers's bigotry should be an issue in Exeter must accept equally that anti-gay (or anti-abortion) campaigners who try to influence the selection or his selection of candidates are not only within their rights, but invigorate politics. A bit, Adrian Rogers! Onward, David Allen!

The man with the laptop cannot be traced and taxed, so governments will have to cut spending

When tax revenues slip through the Net

Let us start with the facts in the Pedras Negras Broadcasting case. I will then explain why it is of central importance to the future of the world. The Pedras Negras Broadcasting Company was an American equivalent to the old Radio Luxembourg. In 1941 it was broadcasting programmes including advertisements across the border from Mexico to Texas. The American tax commissioners argued that this constituted "engaging in a trade or business" in the United States and claimed the right to tax the company.

Pedras Negras appealed to the Board of Tax Appeals, which found in favour of the company; the tax commissioners then appealed to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, which upheld the finding. The actual words of the Court of Appeal were: "If income is produced by the transmission of electromagnetic waves that cover a radius of several thousand miles, free of control of regulation by the sender from the moment of generation, the source of that income is the act of transmission."

"Pedras Negras", as Mr Michael Karlin of the American lawyers Morgan, Lewis & Bockius observed in his recent UCLA lecture, "continues to be good law, and should apply to Internet advertising as it does to other broadcast income." In terms of regulation, the European Union has followed the Pedras Negras principle. In European law, which has been much complained about in Britain, the regulation of satellite broadcasting is the responsibility of the transmitting and not of the receiving country; in the case of the Astra satellite, that is Luxembourg, which does in fact regulate, through the terms of the basic contract between the Luxembourg Government and Astra.

Mr Karlin's lecture was entitled "Cybertax: The Impact of the Internet

on International Taxation and Vice Versa". Although the Internet is still in its infancy, it is already clear that it is going to alter the whole tax structure of the advanced countries. To start with, international taxation is growing in importance. We are entering the age of the global economy, and leaving the age of separate national economies. International taxation is based on the concept of residence and source. As Mr Karlin comments: "The Internet and other technological developments will tend to undermine the administrability of a tax system based on these concepts."

As Pedras Negras determined — and it is hard to see how that could be reversed — the taxable source of an electronic communication is the point of origin, not the point of receipt. On the Internet this source may be unknowable, and even when it is knowable it may be located in a jurisdiction where no tax is levied. Many tax systems depend on the customer reporting the source from which he is provided; that cannot be required of Internet transactions because the customer does not necessarily know who or where the provider is.

Mr Karlin also points to the disincentive which is already one of the Internet's most striking characteristics. Instead of people dealing with each other through an intermediary, they are able to deal direct; they no longer need the distributors, brokers, bankers and so on who put them in touch with each other in terrestrial business, because the Internet lets them do that for themselves. But these intermediaries are the people who report taxable transactions to the authorities, and they are essential to the tax system. No intermediary, no reporting.

Substantial taxable revenues will therefore just disappear, either because the activity is taxable only in another jurisdiction, or because the source of activity is not traceable, or

haven, and unfortunately a haven for money laundering as well.

So far the US Treasury Department's response seems to be based on three rather unstable premises, with signs of the development of a new but very illiberal strategy. The first premise is that, as far as possible, Internet taxation should follow existing tax principles. The second is that new tax classifications should be avoided. The third is that the emphasis on taxation by source should be replaced by taxation by residence. As you cannot catch the electronic message, you go for the individual. This is already the strategy of the penal policies the Americans have adopted to stop their citizens giving up citizenship, to tax those who do, to refuse entry to the United States to those who have given up citizenship for what are deemed to be tax reasons, and to tax aliens who have been resident in the United States when they leave.

This is a real threat to turn the United States into a penal tax colony, and shows every sign of panic. In fact, an increasing number of highly paid intellectual activities can be pursued anywhere in the world. Just as the source of an electronic message cannot be identified, so most activities of intellectual property can be performed in any location and transmitted instantaneously. The United States strategy may drive its elite

earners to leave early, and leave for good, but if it cannot identify the electronic transactions, it will still be unable to tax them.

This process of tax erosion is only beginning. Global electronic transactions will multiply again and again, and will become harder and harder to identify. Habits of tax payment formed in the period when transactions could be identified will weaken. Indirect taxes will become a more and more important part of revenue because you can tax what you can touch or see. Necessities will increasingly be taxed, because they are both identifiable and impossible to avoid. Property taxes will rise. Even so, the taxing capacity of governments as a percentage of gross domestic product will steadily be reduced. The tax take is likely to fall in most countries from around the French level of 50 per cent to around the Hong Kong level of 20 per cent. The ambitions of government will have to be reduced; in particular welfare systems in which most transfer payments go both from and to middle-class and middle-income people are likely to become both insolvent and unpopular.

The direction of change is unmistakable. The timing and scale are not so certain. A working assumption might be that the explosive collision between rising welfare costs and a shrinking tax base will come in the period between 2005 and 2010, three British Parliaments and three American presidential terms from now. The political debate may be about whether to cut expenditure, perhaps by about a third, or to try to penalise the taxpayer because the transactions cannot be identified. The penal policy will not work. You cannot tax the man with the laptop if you do not know who or where he is. The principle of Pedras Negras is going to change the world of the next century.

William Rees-Mogg

because the activity will no longer be reported to the tax authorities. These legal and administrative problems arise even before one looks at encryption. Cheap and readily available software for encoding Internet messages is already on the market, at a cost of £100 or so. In theory, some of these codes could be broken, but if one considers that there will be billions of messages running through billions of alternative routes and using billions of coding possibilities, the tax authorities will not in practice be able to decipher them. In short, cyberspace is an impenetrable tax

Who's wearing Labour's clothes?

Peter Riddell says Labour's confusion has been exposed by the Budget



RIDDELL ON MONDAY

Gordon Brown and Tony Blair should be worried. They could be the long-term losers from last week's Budget. In the short term, admittedly, Labour is still well-placed and nothing has happened to alter the election odds. But if, after the election, a Blair government falters and falls in office, it may be because of its inability to cope with the consequences of the public borrowing, spending and tax plans announced last Tuesday.

Labour's dilemma is that the tensions inherent in its own strategy have been made more acute by the flaws in Kenneth Clarke's proposals. The Budget has highlighted contradictions in new Labour, which would be faced by any centre-left party in an era of limited government: how to promise change while appearing financially responsible. Gordon Brown is sincere in his determination to be an "Iron Chancellor", sticking to the golden rule limiting public borrowing only to what the government invests and with tight limits on overall debt. A Blair government would not be widely profligate. Tony claims that Labour is committed to £30 billion extra in public spending over the life of a Parliament, an absurdly high figure. They miss Labour's real weakness: that the attempt to stay within tight fiscal constraints will destroy the unity of a Blair government, disillusion its supporters and bring attacks from left-wingers such as Dennis Skinner and his successors — just the same as happened to the Wilson and Callaghan administrations.

The Blairite answer is that this time Labour is being open before the election, so there can be no charges of

betrayal afterwards. Labour will make commitments only where the financing is identified, as in the five early pledges on youth unemployment from the windfall levy on utilities), reduced hospital waiting-lists (from cutting administrative costs), smaller class sizes (from phasing out the assisted places scheme) and the like. Otherwise, extra spending will have to come from savings within existing budgets, and for 1997-98 Labour would stick to the plans announced last Tuesday.

But these figures do not add up. Labour has a case in saying that the initial shareholders in the utilities made a killing at the expense of taxpayers, but that was five or ten years ago. Much has since changed: notably the regulatory regime is much tighter. Moreover, the proposed cuts in support for the private

sector in education (assisted places) and health (ending tax relief on insurance for over-sides) go in the wrong direction. Links between the private and public sectors should be strengthened, not weakened.

Labour policy has been seriously contradictory in proposing no overall rise in public spending while opposing many of the Tory measures to contain expenditure. Last week, Labour spokesmen were again denouncing cuts in a wide range of programmes, from the London Underground to single-parent premiums, without saying whether their party could, or would, reverse them. Yet without such measures, spending will rise inexorably. The Budget has aggravated these

pressures. The macro-economic projections are over-optimistic and the spending plans are unsustainable. Public borrowing is too high for a period of strong growth, and the signs of a consumer boom strengthen the case for further restraint to avoid a rise in inflation. Moreover, the public spending figures rely heavily on creative accounting, exceptional items (such as the sale of defence homes) and improbably tight squeezes on Civil Service running costs and core programmes. The Government is being too optimistic in its claims about savings from its much trumpeted "spend to save" attack on tax evasion and benefit fraud. There should be a few blunders in the Treasury. So leaving aside the probability of further rises in interest rates in the coming weeks or months, the Chancellor after the election, who-

ever he may be, will have to consider lower spending and higher taxes.

Labour is going to have to rethink its current approach if it is to offer a credible strategy at the election, which does not have to be abandoned afterwards. Talking in general terms about restraint and cutting waste is no longer good enough. Labour has to say where it would cut spending. A Blair government would have to be radical — not only dropping ideas it has used to appease the unions, such as the end of compulsory competitive tendering, but also recasting the social security system in much the way that Peter Lilley has done.

Even if these measures succeed in limiting the growth of spending, the tax burden will have to rise if borrowing is to be reduced and standards in, say, the health service are to be maintained. While Mr Clarke has stolen some of Labour's clothes with his attack on tax evasion, there is scope for raising more from the corporate sector and the better-off by tackling perks and closing loopholes. Labour may promise that tax rates for most people will not rise, but it is wrong to enter into a competition with the Tories on tax-cutting by proposing a new starting rate of 15 or 10 per cent at some vague future date and a cut in VAT on domestic fuel. Such populist gestures may be good for Labour's image with wavering voters, but they create a false impression about future taxes.

Mr Brown regards these criticisms as unfair and impossibly purist. After all, hasn't he been the most responsible Shadow Chancellor in memory? Hasn't he made himself unpopular in the party by stamping on any hint of new commitments? Isn't it much harder to agree expenditure savings in opposition than in government? Hasn't Labour revealed more of its plans than any previous Opposition, and isn't it being judged by tougher standards than the Tories? These are all reasonable points, but it is precisely because the public, and the markets, believe that Mr Brown will be Chancellor within six months that he is being pressed to be more forthcoming now. It is the critical test of the substance of "new" Labour.

Cardinal error

ONE STEP ahead of the Archbishop of Canterbury, who arrives in Rome tomorrow, is John Monks, the General Secretary of the TUC. He was in the Vatican over the weekend trying to strengthen links between the Roman Catholic establishment and new Labour.

This follows October's fiasco, when the Bishops' conference of England and Wales published *The Common Good and the Catholic Church's social teaching*, which some Labour Party members wrongly interpreted it as an endorsement of new Labour.

Cardinal Hume had to make it clear that the Catholic Church was not in the business of supporting particular political parties, while a gang of Scottish bishops, riled by Labour's hijacking of their support, purposefully distanced themselves from Tony Blair.

None of this seems to have deterred Monks. "Power and wealth make people insensitive to the needs of the weak and the poor," he told the cardinals. When he added, however, that "the Catholic Church shares our view that moral values do not end at the factory gate and

office door," he was back on that tricky political terrain. "Labour may agree with certain Catholic positions," said a leading Catholic priest in London, "but the Church does not share its views with Labour. This sucking up is going nowhere."

● Make sure to highlight November 21 in next year's diary — World



"I see a Camelot employee losing his bonus"

Television Day. This is a new, UN-supported scheme to have the whole world swapping television programmes for a day, for "the enhancement of cultural exchange". In short, we can watch soaps in Swahili, while the rest of the world gets Noel Edmonds. Sounds a fair deal.

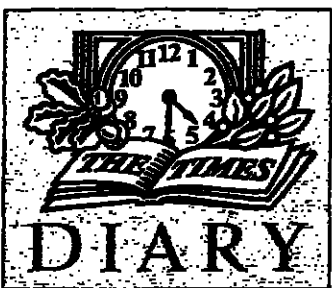
Palpable hit

ANOTHER triumph for Brian Mahoney, the Tory party chairman. He has just sent a begging letter to Councillor Percy Meyer, chairman of the Liberal Democrats in John Major's own constituency, Huntingdon.

"Dear Mr Meyer," writes Mahoney. "You can provide us with an essential part of the Conservative election machine. A £20 donation goes straight towards communication to 4,000 people. Of course modern electioneering requires... targeted mailing."

Set apart

CLASS seems to have the upper hand over money in the new South Africa if the fortunes of Earl Spencer and Mark Thatcher — both recent immigrants to the country — are anything to go by. Thatcher



has kept his head down, seems to have reconstructed his marriage and has been settling his turbulent financial affairs. Nevertheless, his entree into Cape Town society has been awkward and he has had a hard time joining the smarter clubs.

Compare Earl Spencer, who seems rarely to be out of the law courts. He is being sued for £2,000 by the husband of Chantal Callopy. Spencer's latest squeeze, for "entertainment and alienation of affection". Last week his case against a nuisance paparazzo ended in a fudge, with the photographer claiming victory.

And the reward for all this mess? Spencer has been invited by Jane Rappaport, South Africa's leading publisher of women's magazines, and a hot curler in Cape Town society, to be a patron of the city's ballet

company, and, hell, why not, the opera company too.

Fingered

ROLL OUT the rhinoceros hide for Redmond O'Hanlon, explorer and author of the forthcoming *Congo Journey*. He will soon be arriving in Britain with his lucky fetish: a child's finger wrapped in monkey skin. It was given to him by a fetishist in the Congo, and he now carries it with him everywhere.



O'Hanlon: unhand me, sir

It certainly seems to lend him an extra something, as shown when he appeared recently on a Dutch chat-show. Before going on, he found a short, balding man, fidgeting in the wings. Slinging an arm round his shoulder, he said: "Don't worry, old chap, performing in public gets easier with time. At which point the host announced, 'Mr Phil Collins'."

Tall story

INTO the Stafford Hotel, St James's, on Saturday night, loped Elle Macpherson, model and swimwear designer. With her head grazing the sports memorabilia which hangs from the bar's ceiling and walls, she was accompanied by a man who introduced himself as "James". Brawny of forearm and leathery of brow, he had the look of one familiar with mooring fees in Monte Carlo's harbour.

He was definitely not the Swedish banker with whom Miss Macpherson has recently been linked. She did little to dispel the supposition that models are a little empty upstairs with her opening remarks: "Wow, this place is so cute. So cute. Wow, I can't believe it's so cute."

P.H.S



Elle of a place



LABOUR AND ULSTER

A Blair Government would be preoccupied by Ulster too

As the briefest of glances at the memoirs of Harold Wilson and James Callaghan will confirm, Labour Governments have found themselves ensnared by the politics of Northern Ireland. For significant periods, both those Prime Ministers spent as high a proportion of their time on the province as John Major has given for at least the last three years. Were he to enter Downing Street, Tony Blair can expect to find himself facing similar challenges and spending considerable political capital on the same issue. It is a matter that should increasingly command his attention.

The Opposition has, so far, given commendably consistent support to the Prime Minister. Indeed bi-partisanship on the Ulster question has been stronger under Mr Blair than at any other time since his party left office 17 years ago. Labour has backed away from its position of the 1980s, when it favoured a united Ireland, albeit by consent, a stance that alienated the party from all Unionist opinion. The efforts of Mr Mowlem, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, and the lower profile work of others, such as Kate Hoey, have established a working relationship with David Trimble.

Mr Blair would be wise, however, to plan ahead. One of the disadvantages of bi-partisanship is that it serves to defer thinking within the Opposition party. The natural temptation is to allow the Government to make the political running and discourage innovation to avoid the appearance of a division between the two front benches. Labour gives the impression that it is content to allow Mr Major its encouragement and will wait and see what it inherits.

If so, Mr Blair may get a rude awakening. He is expecting his first year in power to be dominated by Scotland. He could discover Northern Ireland has that status. In its rejection of the Prime Minister's initiative last week, the IRA seems set to adopt a new

strategy. While it may step up its campaign against what its leaders would describe as "military targets" in Ulster as well as searching for spectacular acts of terrorism on the mainland, a complete return to full-scale violence may await new governments in London and Dublin. Although Labour has done nothing to encourage this analysis, Sinn Féin clearly believes it possible that it might make a costless return to the negotiating table by threatening an incoming Prime Minister with all-out atrocities as an alternative.

The Labour leadership needs to remove any illusions that Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness may entertain. That requires Tony Blair to associate himself directly with the affairs of Northern Ireland, and make clear where he stands. As part of that process, personnel issues need to be considered. Ms Mowlem has been an effective Ulster Shadow, but she could hold a number of portfolios in a Labour cabinet. A stronger signal would be sent if Mr Blair placed one of his most senior colleagues, and one of the few who have experience of serving in government, in that position. The figure who fits the bill is Dr Jack Cunningham, whose talents are presently under-employed as Shadow Heritage Secretary. Dr Cunningham offers "listening to other people's opinions" as a recreation in his *Who's Who* entry. He would certainly get that opportunity as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

None of this would spare a Prime Minister Blair the burdens of Ulster. At a meeting hosted by *The Times* two months ago, he pledged to match the attention paid by Mr Major to the peace process. In practice, that may prove a very difficult promise for him to keep. Nevertheless, he now needs to prepare himself for the very considerable energy that he would have to expend if he were Prime Minister a year from now.

DAY OF AIDS

Hope and fear march side by side

In a medical field where panic and paranoia have for more than a decade shaped political and scientific response, good news can be almost as deceptive. Drug companies have at last developed protease inhibitors that have shown dramatic results in reducing the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) to below detectable levels in the body. Aids has not been cured, though it may now be held in check. But few were celebrating this breakthrough on World Aids Day yesterday. For the global picture is as dark as ever.

More than 22 million people now suffer from Aids, the vast majority in Africa, Latin America and Asia. The infection rate in some countries is accelerating to epidemic proportions. India already has five million sufferers; within the next three years that figure may reach 50 million. In China, by contrast, there are still only 133 confirmed cases of full-blown Aids. But more than 5,000 people are HIV positive, and Chinese health officials fear that there will be more than a million sufferers by the year 2000. Elsewhere in Asia the figures are still rising inexorably: 50,000 cases have already been noted in Thailand; thousands of unexplained cases add to the high totals in Pakistan, the Philippines and Indonesia; and almost no Asian city is now immune. Brazil and central America are still recording increases. In Africa the pandemic has been exacerbated by war, famine, disease, ignorance and misgovernment. And in Uganda one in ten people is infected and the disease has reduced average life expectancy by 10 years.

For the foreseeable future, drug treatment will be beyond the budget of any Third World country. Even in the richer West, cost is a big deterrent. New therapies can cost up

to £10,000 a year for each life prolonged. Aids campaigners point out that this compares well with the cost of breast screening at £19,000 per year of life prolonged or coronary bypass surgery at £73,000. In Britain, fewer sufferers have access to the new therapies than in France and most other Western countries.

The overriding priority of Western governments is the search for a vaccine, although the mutability of the virus and the many false starts are now pushing such a breakthrough further into the distance. For the moment, therefore, the condition can best be tackled by modifying the behaviour that leads to its incidence. This means a continuation of the forthright Aids education programmes, the campaign for safer sex, emphasis on the dangers of promiscuity and the attempt to prevent intravenous drug use.

Critics have derided such programmes as devoid of moral content and unnecessarily alarmist; yet the fact that in the West there has been no catastrophic acceleration in the incidence of Aids can only underline their effectiveness. And in Africa, where education alone is all that impoverished governments can afford, Church and community leaders are in no doubt that straight talk saves lives.

World Aids Day occasions the kind of exuberant stunts, outrage and sentimentality that many see as distasteful. They point out that other diseases, equally deadly, do not generate such activism. That in itself is no reason to deride the commitment shown across the world yesterday. Aids still exacts a huge cost on emotions and resources. Awareness and responsibility are still the most effective weapons against this scourge.

NICK'S KNACK

Kensington Conservatives debate their troublesome member

The long-running saga concerning Sir Nicholas Scott, MP, may finally be settled tonight. Last year he narrowly survived a re-election battle when local charities overlooked charges of drink driving and failing to stop at the scene of an accident involving a child. Now Sir Nicholas will discover if being found face-down in the gutter after an Irish Embassy event at the Conservative Party conference was his last chance saloon. Scores of would-be alternatives are waiting in the wings.

The meeting will tell us much about modern Conservatives. In a touching display, some 120 fellow members of the Parliamentary Party have written in support of their embattled colleague, with some of Westminster's most senior grandees in the vanguard. Once that might have been enough to save a chap. But the Tories have long moved from the estates to the estate agents. The backing of the high and mighty could be thought a liability — though perhaps not in Chelsea, arguably the wealthiest constituency in Britain and certainly the most solidly Conservative. As a huge proportion of the 120 MPs are probably residents, their letter has more the character of a local petition than a missive from social superiors. Even Mikhail Lyubimov, former colonel in the KGB, has expressed his admiration for this leading light in the Tory Reform Group. No surprise there.

Even before his recent enthusiasm for studying pavement art at close quarters, Sir Nicholas has been a controversial figure.

His admirers point out that *Time* magazine once described him as "a rising world leader". His detractors note sourly the same journal once named Adolf Hitler as its Man of the Year. He was a junior minister in Northern Ireland when the IRA escaped en masse on his watch. At Social Security he was judged a failure by the disabled and his own daughter.

The dogged fight he has put up is said to be motivated by a desire to retire early in the next Parliament and pass on his patch to Chris Patten. Conservative activists might wonder what part they were supposed to have in this rather cosy arrangement. Hong Kong may indeed be one of the few places on the planet with greater riches per square mile than Kensington and Chelsea. However, the Colony's practice of appointing members in its legislature is unlikely to be easily imitated.

The constituency will now have its moment. On the one hand it faces a host of Conservative MPs, presumably motivated by the fear of a dangerous precedent, queuing up to endorse Sir Nicholas. On the other, is the knowledge that the incumbent is out of touch politically with most Tories, has proved a walking — well, staggering — embarrassment, and may try to hand his post over to one of his chums within months of polling day. The choice is for them. Most people outside West London will surely be wondering whether Sir Nicholas really can be the best that the safest Conservative seat in the country can offer.

Police Bill 'would break Europe law'

From the Chairman of the British Legal Association

Sir, According to your report (November 29, later editions), under the provisions of the Police Bill, now before Parliament, the police will soon be able to eavesdrop on conversations between solicitors and their clients.

The European Court of Justice has held that the concept of legal professional privilege applies in EC law (see *AM & S Europe Ltd. v Commission* (1982) ECR 1575).

Regulation 17/62, Article 20, imposes a specific duty on the Commission and the competent authorities of the member states, their officials and other servants not to disclose information acquired by them as a result of an investigation pursuant to Regulation 17/62 "of the kind covered by the obligation of professional secrecy".

This Government, which talks about upholding law and order, is again bent on breaking European law.

If the executive arm of the Government is able to eavesdrop, then lawyers may well have to adopt MIS tactics by taking instructions from clients in museums and parks.

Yours faithfully,
ALEX ALAGAPPA,
Chairman,
British Legal Association,
4 Kingsend, Ruslip, Middlesex,
November 29.

From the Chief Executive of the Women's Royal Voluntary Service

Sir, On Monday the House of Lords will consider those parts of the Police Bill which will introduce a new criminal records agency. The agency will enable charities and organisations working with children and vulnerable adults to make criminal record checks on their volunteers.

The Bill does not make checks compulsory but organisations will come under pressure from trustees and insurers to be seen to be fulfilling their duty of care by running police checks.

It is quite wrong that volunteers who already give their time for nothing should be expected to pay the £5 to £10 which the Government now estimates the checks will cost.

Lord Weatherill, Lord Dubs, Lord Rodgers of Quarry Bank and Lord Swinfen have tabled amendments which will ensure that criminal record checks on volunteers are free. We urge the Government to accept these amendments. If it does not, organisations like ours which depend on volunteers to carry out important work with children and vulnerable adults will face crippling bills which will seriously undermine our ability to deliver vital services.

Yours truly,
GERRY BURTON,
Chief Executive,
Women's Royal Voluntary Service,
234-244 Stockwell Road, SW9,
November 29.

Modern Russia

From Lord Bethell

Sir, It was always on the cards that Alexander Solzhenitsyn, that very brave and effective fighter against Soviet tyranny, would come to be a critic of today's Russian Government too. But in suggesting (report, November 28) that today's rulers are as immoral as the Soviets were and that they operate with the same impunity, protected by the same type of censorship, he goes way over the top.

The strongest piece of evidence against his thesis is the fact that he is physically able to put it forward. In the 1960s and early 1970s it was a criminal offence in the Soviet Union to possess anything that he wrote. He was harassed, arrested, charged with treason and exiled.

Today he lives in well-deserved luxury at home in his beloved Russia with his family and supporters. He revels the Russian media, but they give him generous space.

President Yeltsin has his faults, but it is one of his merits that he tolerates Mr Solzhenitsyn's harsh words. The previous rulers of Russia dealt differently with the problem that he presents.

Yours sincerely,
NICHOLAS BETHELL,
House of Lords,
November 28.

Record catch

From Mr Lynn Hughes

Sir, I am afraid I must disabuse you of the claim (report, November 21) that the 98lbs catfish caught by Mr Steve Bond is "a fish without precedent in the annals of British angling" (see also letters, November 25 and 26).

The fish caught on a rod and line by Alec Allen on the River Towy, at Nantgarreg in Carmarthenshire, on July 25, 1933, was the answer to any angler's prayer:

"... so big that even I...
Will never need to lie."
It weighed 388lbs, a surgeon that had to be transported from the river bank on a horse and cart. Now that really was a fish!

I remain, Sir,
yours sincerely,
LYNN HUGHES,
Dart-y-Bont,
Drefach, Llanelli, Carmarthenshire,
November 28.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Museum admission charges raise variety of issues

From Professor Sir Alan Peacock, FBA

Sir, The good things in life are not free, the treasures of museums and galleries included. Resources to run them and conserve their collections must be paid for by charging, voluntary donation or grant-in-aid. The argument for grant-in-aid is that benefits accrue to the nation, such as improving the quality of choice, in addition to what individuals are willing to pay voluntarily, but this hardly justifies that it should cover the full cost.

If targets are set for national institutions which imply that grant-in-aid is insufficient to meet them, then revenue must be raised elsewhere. But why not leave the directors of museums and galleries to take the initiative in deciding how the balance should be found in the light of the pattern of visitors that they are meant to attract?

This would go some way towards reconciling the various ideas about charges and payment that your correspondents (Arts, November 6; letters, November 21, 25, 28) have suggested, would encourage healthy competition between public and private museums and galleries and remind directors that the large stocks in some of their basements are not simply there to keep their peer-group researchers happy. Indeed, directors should be given more power over the amount and composition of their stock of artefacts, selling and buying in order to improve their service to the public.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN PEACOCK,
146-4 Whitehouse Loan, Edinburgh 9,
December 1.

From Mr J. E. Blackwell

Sir, When I lived in London I was a devotee of the British Museum and I still regard it, in many ways, as my spiritual home. Since retirement I

have become a member of the BM Society and occasionally lend a hand in one of the departments as an unpaid volunteer. However, I can see no moral justification for not charging admission fees, at least to adults.

Free admission is a valuable asset for anyone living or working in London, and I am sure many people will fight hard to hold on to their perquisite. But for people of moderate means who live in the provinces free access is of marginal value. For them the cost of any entrance fee is negligible compared with the cost of transport.

I am in favour of a substantial admission fee if this would allow the staff to make better use of the vast amount of material deposited in the museum.

The museum desperately needs more money to fulfil its functions, but let those who benefit directly help to pay.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD BLACKWALL,
3 Prestbury Road,
Wilmslow, Cheshire,
December 1.

From Sir Hugh Leggatt

Sir, May I add one point to the debate on museum admission charges? It is that the more the funds raised by national institutions from private sources the greater the cut in government subvention.

Such a churlish policy by ministers underlines their own myopia and undermines the tireless work of the Trustees of the British Museum and National Gallery in particular.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH LEGGATT,
Flat 1,
10 Bury Street, St James's, SW1.

From Professor D. M. Metcalf

Sir, In the articles and correspondence devoted to the British Museum's funding crisis, most atten-

tion has been paid to the question of entrance charges. The impact of possible staff reductions has not received the same consideration. Yet it is the expertise and skills of the staff which define how such an institution can deliver the services for which it exists, both to the general public and to the academic community.

The value of the museum as an educational resource to the public, universities, schools, and learned societies depends on the endeavours of the keeper staff, many of whom become world-class authorities in their field. The impact of sudden, wholesale cuts would inevitably cause a loss of experience and expertise which would take decades to replace.

Entrance charges may be a tax on knowledge, but staff cuts would attack the foundations of that knowledge.

Yours truly,
D. M. METCALF
(President,
Royal Numismatic Society),
Wolfson College, Oxford,
December 1.

From Mr C. M. Woodhouse

Sir, In 1972, when Parliament considered legislation to impose admission charges at the British Museum, I asked the junior minister introducing the debate on the Bill in Committee "whether he contemplates with equanimity charging Greeks for looking at the Elgin Marbles" (HC Debates, col 1304, January 25, 1972). I received no reply either from him or from his Secretary of State. Charges were imposed, though they did not last very long.

I have no means of putting the question again today, but I hope someone else will.

Yours faithfully,
C. M. WOODHOUSE
(Conservative MP for Oxford,
1959-66 and 1970-74),
59 Pegasus Grange,
Whitehouse Road, Oxford,
November 25.

Fads and theories

From Mr J. B. Windle

Sir, How refreshing to read Simon Jenkins's article on management consultants and the recent book by Micklethwait and Wooldridge (November 23).

I am now retired, but spent much of my professional life working (quietly) in all kinds of organisations, offering no fads nor theories, and always setting out not only to make the patient well enough to survive, but fit enough to do so through his own strengths and talents.

The latest fad to catch Jenkins's eye — that of seeing a company as a biological entity — is particularly interesting to me. As "the outsider" going into what, in the early seventies, was called Rover-Triumph, my request for an internal assistant was met with: "Brad is ideal, although we're sorry, he's a graduate micro-biologist, not an engineer." Wonderful!

The first task I gave him was to write out that list of seven basic functions common to every living organism, and then examine a selection of departments against it.

Rover-Triumph — and Brad — did well during our years together.

Yours faithfully,
J. B. WINDLE,
Meadow Croft, 106 Station Road,
Burley in Wharfedale,
Ilkley, West Yorkshire,
November 23.

Check to check

From Mr C. F. MacLaren

Sir, I remember twin seats in a cinema (letters, November 18, 21, 26) in central Glasgow in the very early 1930s.

I am now so old that I can no longer remember the name of the cinema, nor, indeed, can I remember why, at that time, I thought the twin seats were such a good idea.

Yours sincerely,
COLIN MACLAREN,
The Coach House,
Eye Park, Eye, Suffolk,
November 27.

From Mr David Scott-Gatty

Sir, At the cinema in Frizington, Cumberland, some 50 years ago, if one wished to occupy one of the double seats at the back, one asked for a "furtle". On the price list, a fauteuil was really quite expensive — half a crown at least.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SCOTT-GATTY,
Stonhouse,
Netherbury, Bridport, Dorset,
December 1.

Reverting to type

From Mr I. R. Lyon

Sir, I'm so glad that Mrs B. Keefe (letter, November 25), of the London College of Graphology, confirms my thoughts that handwriting can be studied to assess the psychological stability of the writer. I realised that many years ago and so bought a word processor.

Yours faithfully,
IAN LYON,
Eastone Grey,
Allenhayes Road, Salcombe, Devon,
November 26.

Aspirin and children

From the Director and Chief Executive of the Medicines Control Agency

Sir, I write to correct a serious misunderstanding which may have arisen from views expressed by Dr T. C. Dann (letter, November 27; see also report, November 23).

Aspirin was withdrawn from use in the treatment of children during the mid-1980s because of concerns about its significant association with Reye's syndrome, in which acute brain swelling complicated by liver failure is commonly fatal.

This action has saved lives, and parallel steps taken in the US have reflected the UK experience. All aspirin-containing products carry a label warning that they should not be used in children under 12 years.

The Medicines Control Agency's consultation on proposals to improve the product information and restrict availability of paracetamol makes it quite clear that in normal use paracetamol is an effective analgesic with an excellent safety record in adults, in children, in the elderly and in pregnant women. There is no reason why those who presently use paracetamol in the recommended dosages should switch to an alternative analgesic.

School league tables

From Dr Leslie Bather

Sir, Even the headmaster of such a distinguished school as Sherborne dislikes the publication of school performance tables (letter, November 23; see also letters, November 20 and 28), but there is ample evidence that they are helping to make most schools better.

Can it be a coincidence that since league tables were introduced one of the most popular topics for teacher and governor training has become "school improvement"? Or that many routine head teachers' meetings have been enlivened by a more urgent desire to discuss ways of improving the monitoring of levels of achievement and of raising standards?

Examination statistics can be misinterpreted and they do give only a partial picture of a school, but in recent years parents have been offered other new sources of information as well. Ofsted inspection reports and

the now universal open evenings give everyone a chance to inquire about standards of teaching and of discipline, the quality of pastoral care, the importance attached to praise and encouragement, the impact of extra-curricular activities and much else that distinguishes the best from the worst schools.

In my experience the result is that parents as a whole are becoming better informed, more skilled in comparing schools and quicker to pick up how positive is the atmosphere in a school.

Not long ago it was common for many parents to assume that their child would simply go to the nearest school. That is happily no longer the case.

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE BATHER
(Headmaster, Bishopshalt School,
Hillingdon, 1970-1996),
Glenariff, 33 Ripon Road,
Wallasey, Merseyside,
December 1.

No charge

From Mr Quentin Langley

Sir, I greet the news "British Gas bills fiasco worsens" (report, Business, November 23) with somewhat mixed feelings. I would like to think that such a major enterprise is being properly run. But if they ever solve their problems, they will presumably get round to sending me a bill, for the first time since I had gas installed in 1990.

When I do receive a bill — and it really ought to follow fairly hard on your publication of this letter — I will be more than happy to pay for the gas I have used. However, I intend to dispute the standing charges. I see no reason to pay for the administration of an account that has plainly not been administered.

Yours sincerely,
QUENTIN LANGLEY,
55 Hillview Court,
Woking, Surrey,
November 25.

Gas safety

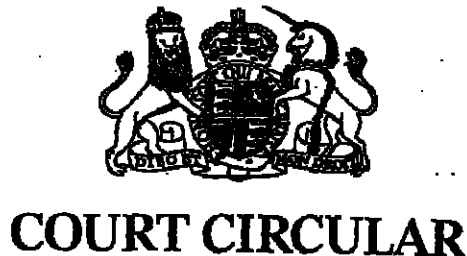
From R. J. Simmons

Sir, Pensioners, we sit each night before a gas fire. British Gas already charge us over £100 each year to service the central heating. To look at our one small fire they ask another £40. It's a lot. We can't afford it.

Last year 63 people died (News in brief, November 28) because of faulty gas appliances and blocked chimneys. Many more were ill, but escaped. Should anyone be surprised?

Yours faithfully,
R. J. SIMMONS,
1 Cuthbert Road,
Wimborne, Dorset,
November 28.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 30: The Duke of York today attended the celebration to mark the return of the Stone of Destiny to Scotland and was received at the Palace of Holyroodhouse by the Secretary of State for Scotland (Mr Michael Forsyth MP) and Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh (Mr Eric Miligan).

His Royal Highness this morning attended a Service of Dedication for the Stone of Destiny in St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh.

Birthdays today

The Earl of Arundel and Surrey, 40; Sir Maurice Bathurst, QC, 83; Sir Frederick Bennett, former MP, 78; Mr Timothy Bower, 54; the Hon Nigel Calder, science writer, 65; Mrs Beryl Chitty, diplomat, 79; Professor Sir Alan Cook, FRS, former Master, Selwyn College, Cambridge, 74; Sir Frank Cooper, civil servant and company chairman, 74; Sir David Davies, former chairman, Welsh Development Agency, 87; Mr David Green, director, Voluntary Service Overseas, 48; Mr Michael Green, chairman, Carlton Communications, 49; General Alexander Haig, former American Secretary of State, 72; Marshall of the RAF Sir Peter Harding, 63; Miss Patricia Hewitt, former deputy director, Institute for Public Policy Research, 48; Dr Gwyn Jones, BBC National Governor for Wales, 46; Sir George Labouchere, diplomat, 81; Dr Brian Lang, chief executive, British Library, 51; Mr Roy Moss, former vice-chairman, Allied Domecq, 67; Dame Winifred Preece, former President, Royal College of Nursing, 86; Miss Monica Seles, tennis player, 23; Mr Alex Smith, MEP, 53; Mr Gianni Versace, fashion designer, 50.

Conservationist peer honoured

The Queen has appointed Lord Buxton of Aberystwyth, a nature conservationist, to membership of the Royal Victorian Order. Lord Buxton has been a conservation adviser to the Duke of Edinburgh for more than 40 years and has worked widely around the world with the Duke.

Lord Buxton, who lives at Salford, North Norfolk, is a director of Anglia Television, where he pioneered the acclaimed *Survival* wildlife series.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will attend a reception at the Garrick Club at 6.30 to mark the publication of a catalogue of the club's pictures.

The Duke of Edinburgh will visit Norfolk, Maidhead Office Park, Maidhead, at 3.30.

The Princess Royal will attend the Olympic dinner at the British Museum at 8.

The Duchess of Gloucester, as Patron of the Listening Library, will attend the annual meeting at Skinner's Hall at 5.05.

The Duke of Kent will open the new army indoor tennis centre, Princess Avenue, Aldershot, at 5.00.

Bernini's lost bust of King recaptured

By Isabel Carlisle

TWO plaster casts of the marble bust of Charles I made by the great Italian sculptor Bernini and lost in the Whitehall palace fire of 1698, have been discovered.

The casts, one belonging to a British private collection and the other at Berkeley Castle in Gloucestershire, had been long untraced. One is pictured on the right.

The art historian Gudrun Raatschen describes in this month's issue of *The Burlington Magazine* her detective work that led to confirmation that they were taken from the original Bernini sculpture.

Gian Lorenzo Bernini was commissioned to make the bust by Queen Henrietta Maria in 1635. Because Bernini was unable to travel to London, the famous triple portrait of Charles I (now in the Royal Collection) was painted by Van Dyck and sent to Italy. It shows the King full face, in full profile on the right cheek and half profile on the left.

Bernini based his sculpture

on the painting but made a number of small changes. From contemporary accounts he clearly regarded it as one of his masterpieces. He had cut the marble into such thin and delicate shapes that he was worried that details such as "the little lockes of hayre" would be damaged on the journey back to England.

Once it had safely arrived, plaster casts were made for artists, one ending up in the possession of Jonathan Richardson, who made drawings of it. These drawings were used by Ms Raatschen to identify the casts.

Photographs taken from the same angles as the Van Dyck triple portrait reveal how closely the painting and sculpture were connected. Charles's brushed-up moustache in particular has been faithfully copied by Bernini, down to the fan-like curls.

Other copies of busts of Charles I have been put forward in the past as candidates for the lost original. It has taken until now to establish what it really looked like.



The night sky in December

By MICHAEL J HENDRIE
ASTRONOMY CORRESPONDENT

MERCURY is at greatest eastern elongation (20 degrees) on the 15th. It should be visible low in the southwest after sunset during the middle of the month when it will be setting up to an hour and a half after the Sun. As bright as -0.5 magnitude on the 15th, it will fade quickly later in the month. Crescent Moon to the north on the 12th.

Venus is a -3.9 mag morning star, a brilliant object in the southeastern dawn sky. It will be rising only two hours before the Sun by the 31st. Waning crescent Moon 2 degrees north on the 8th. Venus will be a few degrees north of the first magnitude star Antares on the morning of the 24th.

Mars moves into Virgo reaching 0.5 magnitude and rising before midnight by the 31st. Moon to the south on the 3rd-4th. Jupiter sets only an hour after the Sun by the end of the month. Moon to the north on the 12th.

Saturn is in Pisces and sets before 0h by the end of the year when it will be 1.0 magnitude. It reaches a stationary point on the 4th and then resumes direct eastward motion against the stars. Moon to the north on the 17th.

Uranus in Capricornus sets at 18h on the 31st. Moon to the north on the 13th. Neptune in Sagittarius sets by 17h 30m by the end of December.

The Moon: last quarter 3d 05h, new Moon 10d 17h, first quarter 17d 10h, full Moon 24d 21h. The Moon will be very close to the first magnitude star Aldebaran on the 22nd-23rd. The Earth: winter solstice 21d 14h.

Sunset on the 1st is at 15h 50m and on the 31st at 16h 01m while sunrise is at 07h 45m and 08h 08m on the same dates. Astronomical twilight ends at 17h 55m and 18h 05m early and late in the month

and begins again at 05h 45m and 06h 05m.

Algol, the eclipsing variable star in Perseus, fades from 2.1 to 3.4 magnitude every 69 hours. It can be seen when faint about the following times: 3d 20h, 18d 04h, 21d 01h, 23d 22h and 26d 19h.

The Geminid meteor shower is the equal of the August Perseids but not as often seen because of poor weather and less pleasant observing conditions. While some meteors can be seen over the period December 9-15, the shower peaks this year on the night of the 13th-14th. The position of the radiant is shown on the monthly chart, just to the north of Castor. The Moon will be only three days old so will not interfere. More meteors should be seen later in the night as Gemini rises higher in the eastern sky. Some 60 or

more per hour can be expected, with some bright "shooting stars" among them.

Comet Hale-Bopp has been visible in the evening sky in the Serpens-Ophiuchus area this autumn, moving slowly north just south of the celestial equator. In mid-November it was around 4th magnitude though it has not been an easy object to find in low power binoculars from light polluted sites, being rather compact and easily mistaken for a star. It will cross the celestial equator on December 6. This month it will be low in the western sky after dark but may be as bright as 3rd magnitude. How visible it will be at this time is impossible to forecast and depends very much on the clarity and darkness of the sky.

Comet Hale-Bopp has been a little fainter than expected



The diagram shows the brighter stars that will be above the horizon in the latitude of London at 23h (11 pm) at the beginning, 22h (10 pm) in the middle, and 21h (9 pm) at the end of the month, local mean time. At places away from the Greenwich meridian the Greenwich times at which the diagram applies are later than the above by one hour for each 15 deg west of Greenwich and earlier by the amount of the place east. The map should be turned so that the horizon of the observer lies (shown by the wavy line around the circle) is at the bottom, the zenith being at the centre. Greenwich Mean Time, known to astronomers as Universal Time and expressed in 24-hour notation, is used in the accompanying text unless otherwise stated.

Forthcoming marriages

The Hon Gavin Hamilton and **Miss H. Rodwell**
The engagement is announced between Gavin, eldest son of Lord and Lady Hamilton of Dalhousie, of Betchworth, Surrey, and Harriet, younger daughter of Mr Thomas Roskill, of Brockhampton, Herefordshire, and Mrs Elizabeth Roskill, of Headington, Oxfordshire.

Mr I.G. Rich and **Miss L.A.J. Stammers**
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of the late Mrs R. Rich, of Wallingford, and Lucy, daughter of Commander and Mrs Peter Stammers, of Rickmansworth.

Mr I. Stachler and **Miss S. Reese**
The engagement is announced between Ian, son of Mr and Mrs F. Stachler, of Villenay-de-Monts, France, and Samantha, daughter of Colonel and Mrs M.J. Reese, of Scholar Green, Cheshire.

Mr N.E.A. Troth and **Miss A.C. Anderson**
The engagement is announced between Nicholas Francis Andrew, third son of Dr and Mrs Harvey Troth, of Alresford, Hampshire, and Antonia Caroline, daughter of Mrs Philippa Anderson, of Domine, de la Marjallat, Bagnères-de-Luchon, France, and the late Mr Bruce Anderson.

Mr D.J. Wheeler and **Miss A.E.L. Smith**
The engagement is announced between Dominic, elder son of Mr Nick Wheeler, of Worcester, and Mrs Christine Anne, of Cradley, Worcestershire, and Alexandra, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Smith, of Eastbourne.

Marriages

Mr M.A. Biddle and **Lady Annabella Eborac**
A service of blessing was held on Saturday in the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft, Palace of Westminster, after the marriage of Mr Mark Biddle, younger son of Mr and Mrs Donald Biddle, to Lady Annabella, daughter of the Earl and Countess of Buchan. The Rev Roger Holloway officiated.

A reception was held at the House of Lords.

The Hon R.T.A. Goff and **Miss C.L. Creggan**
The marriage took place on Saturday, November 30, at the Temple Church, London, of Thomas, only son of Lord and Lady Goff of Chieveley, and Catherine, only daughter of Mr Peter Creggan, of Hawley, Hampshire, and Lady Jennifer Creggan, of Freshwater, Surrey. Canon J.J. Robinson officiated, assisted by Canon C.T. Scott-Dempster.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Wendy Barratt, Emily Southward, Clara Barrow, Anna Jackson and Jack Barrow. Mr David Cameron and Mr Toppy Todhunter were best men.

A reception was held at the Inner Temple Hall and the honeymoon will be spent in the South Pacific.

Mr N.D. Crowley and **Miss A.A. Callinex**
The marriage took place on Saturday, November 30, at Little Hampton, Devon, between Mr Nicholas David Crowley, son of Commander and Mrs David Crowley, of Sparrow, Devon, and Miss Alexandra Adela Callinex, eldest daughter of Mrs Ellen Callinex, of Cambridge.

Latest wills

Jean Story Talhams, of Kirkcubbin, Carlisle, left estate valued at £1,068,865 net. She left all her estate to be divided between various charities.

Kenneth Ellison Horne, of Broughton, Northamptonshire, left estate valued at £5,475,222 net.

Peter Allen Holt, of Oakham, Leicestershire, left estate valued at

Service dinners

35 Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
The Deputy Lord Mayor and Deputy Lady Mayoress of Birmingham and Brigadier J.H. Griffin, Commander Communications Headquarters Land, were the guests at the annual officers' dinner of the 35th (South Midland) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) held on Saturday at Birmingham Council House. Lieutenant Colonel R.M. Thurston, Royal Signals, presided. Brigadier L.A. Sim, Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, also spoke.

No. 2 Welsh Wing ATO
Air Chief Marshal Sir John Willis, Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff, and Lady Willis were guests of honour at the annual dinner of No. 2 Welsh Wing ATO held at Bryn Cegin Hall, Dagenham, North Wales, on Saturday. The Commanding Officer, Wing Commander M.J. Richards, and Mrs Richards were present. Squadron Leader T. Foley presided.

TA Airborne Officers and HQ 5AB Brigade
General Sir Roger N. Wheeler was the principal guest at a dinner held on Saturday. Other guests were Brigadier Richard Hootes and Mr Rupert Allsob, MP. Lieutenant Colonel Eric F. Kohn presided.

Dinners

Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
The Duchess of Gloucester was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists held on Friday, November 28, at the College, Dr. Naren Patel, President of the College, and Dr. Helen Patel received the guests. Mr John Mortimer, QC, replied to the toast to the guests. The other guests included:

Dr George Brindley, Dr Michael Brindley, Professor Sir Norman Broome, Sir Kenneth Calman, and Fraser of Carmyllie, Dr June Crown, Baroness Cumberlege, Sir William Douglas, Dr Peter Finch, Dr Stuart Fox, Mr Alan Latham, Dr Christopher Harding, Baroness Hayman, Mr Ken Harrold, Dr Betty Kesteven, Mrs Anne Latham, Mr John Lewellyn Williams, Dr Norman Mackay, Professor Roderick MacSwiney, Dr Jeremy Morris, Dr John Mould, Mr Colin Morgan, Mr Bruce Norris, Dr Bridget Ogilvie, Sir Christopher O'Neill, Mr Keith Peters, Professor George Radda, Mr Geoff Scott, Sir Rodney Sweeney, Professor John Temple.

Stonycroft Association
Father Michael O'Halloran, SJ, was the guest of honour at the Stonycroft Association's dinner held on Saturday at the Assembly Rooms, Bath. Canon J.J. Robinson, chairman, presided. Mr A.J.F. Aylward, Headmaster of Stonycroft College, also spoke.

Association of Old Brightonians
Lord Skidelsky, FBA, was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Association of Old Brightonians held on Saturday at Brighton College. Rear-Admiral P.C.V. Dingenouts, president, was in the chair. Mr J.D. Leach, Headmaster of Brighton College, also spoke.

The Old Lymington Association
The Annual OLA Dinner was held at Lymington Upper School, W6, on Friday, November 29, with Professor Alan Mumford in the Chair. Principal guests included The Headmaster, Mr C. Digby and Mr W. Emmott, Editor of *The Economist*, who proposed the toast to the School and the Association.

£1,809,860 net. He left seven and a half parts of his estate to be shared between the British Red Cross and Marie Curie Cancer Care plus two and a half parts to Whitechapel Parish Church.

Justin O'Leary, of Bletchley, Oxfordshire, left estate valued at £2,447,282 net.

Mollie Gordon Smith, of Saundham, Suffolk, left estate valued at £1,382,368 net.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
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DEATHS

CHATTOCK - On 28th November peacefully in her 85th year, Mrs. Chattock, nee Jones, of 11, St. John's Road, London, died.

AYTO - On 28th November 1996 in Birmingham, to William and Mrs. Ayto, a son, Oliver George, first grandson for John and Catherine, died peacefully at home.

CUTHBERT - Alexander, 23rd November 1996, aged 85, of 11, St. John's Road, London, died.

FERRICK - On November 27, 1996 to Kate (nee Thoburn) and Hugo a daughter (Lucy Charlotte).

RUNDALL - On November 24, 1996, to Sarah and Jeremy, a daughter, Emily Alexandra, a sister to William.

HOARE - On 28th November 1996 to Geoffrey and Caryl a daughter Joanna Elizabeth, a sister to William.

JONES - On November 28, 1996, to Sarah and Jeremy, a daughter, Emily Alexandra, a sister to William.

LAW - On November 27th to Malena (nee Roberts) and Matthew a daughter, Laura Anna, a sister to William.

MILLS - On November 28th to Laura and Charles a daughter, Charlotte Grace, a sister to William.

QUARTLEY - On November 24th, to Alexandra (nee Chambers) and Matthew, a son, Edward Charles.

WANTED

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FOR SALE

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Evening Tail Suits

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

RENTALS
Property for rent

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TINY TIM

ITHIER DE ROQUEMAUREL

A black and white portrait of a middle-aged man with short, dark hair, wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a dark tie. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a textured, mottled grey.

One of his two sons continues the family tradition as vice-president of Hachette-Filipacchi Presse and his daughter, the Comtesse Florence Terray, is also in magazines. Ithier de Roquemaurel was predeceased by his wife.

JOHN MacDOUGALL

MARGARET POLLARD

Even before the Cap'n died in 1968 she began giving away her worldly goods and was ultimately reduced to living in one room whose cheerful squalor she stoutly defended against callow and pedestrian criticism. How much money she gave away no one will ever know. Her sense of humour was earthy, her chuckle more like a stomach rumble. Eccentric she may have been, but she was also fiercely rational and widely loved.

Three days before she died she was, at last, too tired to finish the telephone rosary with Brother IS. They had said it daily for 35 years.

University news

Middleborough), Rebecca Dalton (Talbot Heath S. Bournemouth), Jennifer Downes (Perse S. Cambridge), Christopher Evans (Monkton Combe S. S. Bath), Sarah Jones (H.S. Lichfield), Jane Labous (Anglo-European S. Ingestoune), Owain Morgan (Lancaster RGS), Thomas Mason (Bingley G.S. West Yorkshire), Andrew McKnight (St Olave's GS, Kent), Claire Poulter (Perse S. Cambridge), Ellen Saunders (Millfield S.), James Smith (Dr Challoner's G.S. Bucks), Andrew Ward (St Basil's C. Manchester), Richard Wel (St Francis' Manchester) and Hannah West (St. Crank's Middlesex).

Queen's University, Belfast
Elections to Senate

Professor Norma Dawson, Dean of the Faculty of Law, and **Professor Robert Stout**, Provost of the College of Health Sciences and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, have been elected by the Academic Council to the Senate.

THE BEVERIDGE REPORT

The first task of the Committee, as stated in Part I, has been to attempt for the first time a comprehensive survey of the whole field of social insurance and allied services, to show just what provision is now made and how it is made, for many different forms of need. The picture presented is impressive in two ways.

First, it shows that provision for most varieties of need through interruption of earnings and other causes has already been made in Britain on a scale not surpassed and hardly rivalled in any other country of the world. In one respect only of the first importance—the namely, limitation of medical service, both in the range of treatment which is provided out of right and in respect of the classes of persons for whom it is provided, does Britain's achievements fall seriously short of what has been accomplished elsewhere.

Second, social insurance and the allied services as they exist today are conducted by a complex of disconnected administrative organs, proceeding on different principles, doing inevitable service but at a cost in money and trouble and anomalous treatment of identical problems for which there is no justification . . .

ON THIS DAY
December 2, 1942

The report by Sir William (later Lord) Beveridge (1879-1963) with its goal to defeat "Want, Disease, Ignorance, Squalor and Idleness" is the foundation of the welfare state (he called it the "social service state"). It was a best-seller; 635,000 copies were sold.

Thus, limitation of compulsory insurance to persons under contract of service and below a certain remuneration if engaged on non-manual work is a serious gap... There is no real difference between the income needs of persons who are sick and those who are unemployed, but they get different rates of benefit, involving different contribution conditions and with meaningless distinctions between persons of different ages.

There are three different means tests for non-contributory pensions, for supplementary pensions, and for public assistance, with a fourth test — for unemployment assistance —

differing from that for supplementary pensions. It is not open to question that, by closer co-ordination, the existing social services could be made at once more beneficial and more intelligible to those whom they serve and more economical in their administration.

Three guiding principles of recommendations are laid down. The first is that any proposals for the future, while they should use to the full the experience gathered in the past, should not be restricted by consideration of sectional interests. . . . The second principle is that organisation of social insurance should be treated as one part only of a comprehensive policy of social progress. Social insurance fully developed may provide income security: it is an attack upon want. But want is one only of five giants on the road to reconstruction and in some ways the easiest to attack. The others are disease, ignorance, squalor, and idleness.

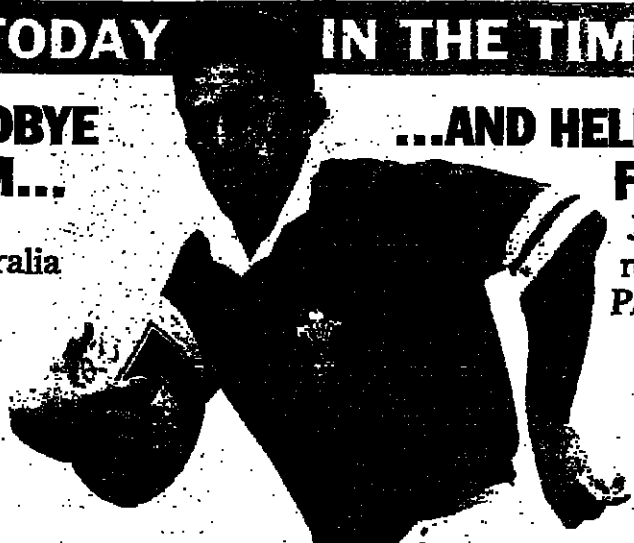
The third principle is that social security must be achieved by cooperation between the State and the individual. The State should offer security for service and contribution. The State in organising security should not stifle incentive, opportunity, responsibility; in establishing a national minimum it should leave room and encouragement for voluntary action by each individual to provide more than that minimum for himself and his family ...

TODAY

IN THE TIMES GREAT SEASON OF SPORT



IT'S GOODBYE FROM HIM...
Campese says farewell for Australia
PAGE 33



...AND HELLO AGAIN FROM HIM
Jonathan Davies returns for Wales
PAGE 33

SPORT FOR ALL
Biking back to happiness
PAGE 38



DAMP START
England lose winter tour opener
PAGE 27

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY DECEMBER 2 1996

CHELSEA BROUGHT CRASHING TO EARTH AT ELLAND ROAD

Leeds thrive on kick and Rush

Leeds United 2
Chelsea 0

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE FA Carling Premiership is in danger of serious regression into malice if the match at Elland Road between Leeds United and Chelsea yesterday is allowed to become any kind of benchmark for appalling foul play and refereeing that is an abdication of the rule book, as Fifa has lately redefined it. The game itself, as ferocious at times as the swirling Yorkshire gale, produced early goals for Brian Deane and, at long last, for Ian Rush.

Thereafter, so dishevelled were Chelsea at the back that it could have been a humiliation: it could also, perversely, have been all square after a second-half rally during which Chelsea were denied a blatant penalty and one of their substitutes, Frank Sinclair, almost broke the crossbar in two with a header from six yards.

The result suggests that Leeds, as motivated as this, are in the wrong half of the table and will rise fast. It also suggests that, for all their fine and expensive stylings, Chelsea do not possess the calibre of potential title-winners.

Yet all considerations are secondary compared to the unsavoury aspects of players, first in Leeds white and then in Chelsea blue, kicking one another from behind with utter disregard for the limbs of

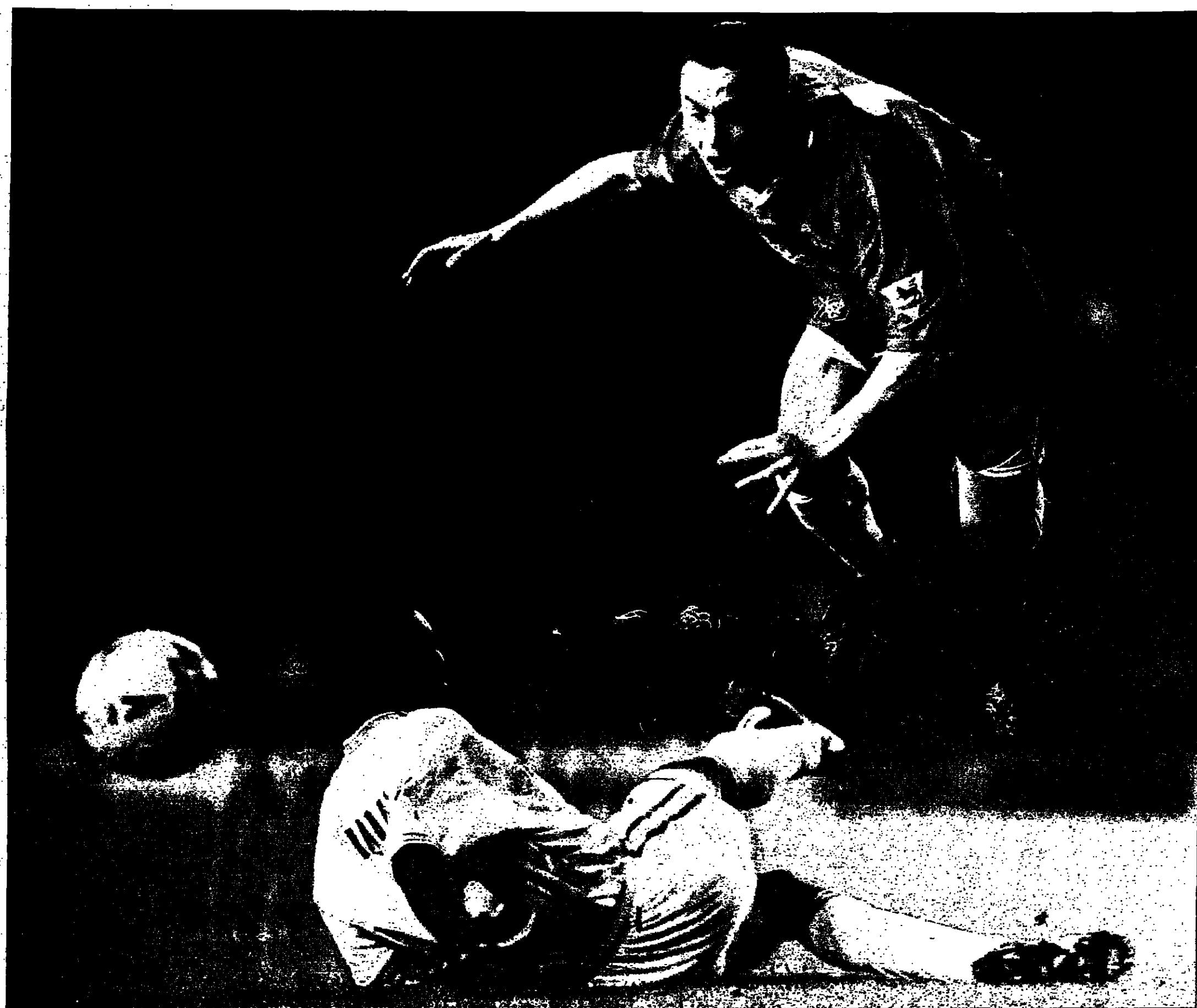
Yorke spot-on 28
Steve McManaman 28
Arsenal united 29
Rampant Wolves 31
Regal Rangers 31

fellow professionals. If referees are not competent to prevent such thuggery, then it is time the Professional Footballers' Association called their own members into account.

They could begin with the video evidence of the horrendous use of the studs in the 73rd minute by Deane that left a four-inch gap requiring six stitches in the unprotected flesh above the ankle of Hughes in the 73rd minute. Hughes, never the angel, had only moments earlier perpetrated a cynical foul from behind on Beesley. The stretcher for Hughes was an unwelcome sight, the fact that Deane, once more, with a two-footed tackle from behind on Clarke, and even Ruud Gullit, Chelsea's player-coach, and the supposedly elegant Frenchman, Frank Leboeuf, were also foul players going through opponents from the back, tells you how high the blood was running.

The shame of all this is that it runs completely contrary to the efforts to make the stadiums and those who sit in them more civilised. Time was when the threat to life and limb of a Leeds v Chelsea affair came from the hard core of their indiscipline following.

Alas, the perceived amnesty that our referees have embarked upon, lowering the tone of their early season authority, is bringing disrepute on the field. The kicking at Elland Road came after a tackle by Chris Morris, of Middlesbrough, against Keith Gillespie, of Newcastle United, on Wednesday that was X-rated by any account



Wise, of Chelsea, is sent tumbling by a tackle by Radebe, the Leeds defender, during the bruising encounter at Elland Road yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

other than the feeble refereeing retribution of a yellow card.

"I want my teams to be committed, to win the ball back as early as possible, and be a forward-looking team. That's a style that has served me well at Millwall and Arsenal, and I am sure it will serve us well at Leeds United. I'm in the game to win." Thus did George Graham, the Leeds manager, spell it out in the match programme. To carry out this policy, Leeds put Radebe on Zola as a man-marker. Ironically, the little Italian may have been the one player who came off

without the marks and the bruises of this alien contest.

Initially, Deane and Rush were able to cut through what posed as a Chelsea defence almost at will. Their goals came little more than a minute apart. In the eighth minute, Beesley produced an early through ball into the penalty box that just beat the offside trap. Deane eluded the on-rushing goalkeeper, Freddie Grodas, and from an acute angle, scored with his left foot. Wise had lain prostrate on the ground, the victim of a Rush tackle, unseen, as the move for the goal built up.

And then something that has taken from May to December to arrive — an Ian Rush goal. Kelly crossed from the right, Sharpe found space behind Petrescu and, amid some Chelsea confusion, Rush was swift, brave and predatory from seven yards. The scorer of 346 goals for Liverpool, he had required 16 games to break his duck for Leeds.

Leeds, particularly Deane, should have had more goals. In the nineteenth minute, Grodas came out and threw himself at Deane's feet to save, and Rush headed the

rebound wide. Four minutes later Grodas again deflected an effort by Deane and was hit on the body by the rebound attempt from Rush who had the goal at his mercy.

Beesley and Carlton Palmer were giving Leeds the defensive stability and the order that Chelsea lacked and early in the second half Rush, with the goalkeeper backpedalling in front of him, lofted a measured chip that Grodas tipped over.

Gradually, from their reshaped midfield, where Gullit and Newton replaced Wise and Di Matteo at half-time, Chelsea established the

kind of grip that there experience and star qualities demanded. But, amid the continuing malice, which included a kick by Vialli into the calf of Rush that went completely unpunished, Chelsea's pressure earned very little. Leboeuf came forward and slid the ball to Clarke; Palmer took Clarke's ankle; the referee took no heed of the penalty claim. Much later, from one of Zola's teasing, inswinging corners, Sinclair struck the crossbar and, almost as time ran out, Palmer denied Vialli a chance, before Gullit, with a free header, pro-

pelled the ball straight at Martyn. It was all over bar the talking. Gullit pondered whether what happened to Hughes was a legacy of the striker's past. Rush, so often a colleague of Hughes on international duty was also asked about the foul play. "It was within the spirit of the game," he said.

The spirit was malign.

LEEDS UNITED (3-0-2): N Martyn — D Wetherall, C Palmer, P Beesley — G Kelly, M Ford, L Bowyer, I Rodon, L Sharpe — I Rush, B Deane. CHELSEA (3-5-2): F Grodas — M Duberry, P Leboeuf, S Clarke — D Petrescu, G Zola, R Di Matteo (sub: E Newton, 66min), D Wise (sub: N Gullit, 46), S Minto — G Vialli, M Hughes (sub: F Sinclair, 76). Referee: S Dunn.



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SNOOKER

Hendry is unable to break spirit of rival

By Phil Yates

THE intimidatory force of century breaks in consecutive frames was not sufficient for Stephen Hendry to shake off John Higgins in the first session of the United Kingdom championship final, played to the best of 19 frames, at Preston yesterday.

Hendry, attempting to regain top spot in the provisional world rankings, entered the concluding phase of the game's second most important event holding a precarious 5-4 advantage. That scoreline represented something of an escape by Higgins, who trailed 5-2 at one stage.

It was hardly surprising that these fellow Scots, who three weeks ago joined forces with Alan McManus to capture the World Cup in Thailand, displayed uncharacteristic signs of nervousness during the initial exchanges.

Higgins, chasing his sixth leading title during a two-year span in which he has emerged as the leading challenger to Hendry, was expected to settle down after a decisive 69 break in the opening frame.

Yet he missed two routine reds in losing the second frame and, occupying prime-scoring position in the third, he jawed a straightforward red to a middle pocket that

SCORES

SEMI-FINALS: J. Higgins (Scotland) beat S. Hendry (Scotland) 5-4. Final: Hendry leads Higgins 5-4.

allowed Hendry to the table for a run of 74.

Higgins levelled by accounting for the fourth frame with a contribution of 64 but, after taking a disjointed fifth, Hendry carried his total of century breaks in the championship to six and his career aggregate to 358 with back-to-back efforts of 102 and 115.

Many lesser players would have crumbled in the face of such an onslaught but Higgins stood firm. He fashioned a 36 clearance in the eighth and, with confidence restored, put together breaks of 47 and 46 to dominate the closing frame of a tense afternoon.

Hendry has prevailed on three of his previous four meetings with Higgins's solitary success being a 5-4 victory in the first round of the Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge 11 months ago after he had trailed 4-1.

When Hendry describes a particular performance as one of his best, by definition it must be special. On the way to drubbing McManus 9-1 in the semi-finals on Saturday, he mixed a powerful cocktail of unerring potting accuracy with misery safety.

Though Hendry did not compile a century against McManus, there was a ruthless exploitation of virtually every chance afforded to him. As a result, Hendry registered by far his most one-sided win over an opponent who traditionally gives him plenty to think about.

BBC's England team fail to make a mark

CHRISTOPHER IRVINE
TV ACTION REPLAY

Like the television coverage, my England trial has changed since boyhood. Lucky hat on, several trembling trips to the toilet, legs crossed, fingers crossed, half-time digestives and come on David Duckham, score, please score. If the Blind Express did and England triumphed, it only took the *Grandstand* teletypewriter to tap out a Coventry City victory to show that all in the world was good.

All three occurred together enough times for the lucky hat to retain its charm. Usually, though, it was tossed down and everyone was blamed from the stupid centre for not giving Duckham a pass, to Bill McLaren for his fawning over the cursed, match-winning Gareth Edwards or Andy Irvine for his last-gasp penalty goal. And then there was

Coventry's colander defence — no change there from the Seventies.

The venerable David Coleman, in his regulation porkie hat, has given way to the hatless and vulnerable Steve Rider, whose pre-match battle on Saturday against the Twickenham loudspeaker sent him indoors and recalled problems of the first live television commentary from there in 1938. During the match, Teddy Wakelam was asked by the engineers: "Please do something about the sun." His reply was: "Ask the director general to have the damned thing put out."

Of course, technology has done away with the chaos. That is why, when the first and second cameras missed the New Zealand Barbarians first try completely, a third panned to the rescue. You could almost

hear the production team's sighs above Nigel Starmer-Smith's breathless chatter. It was not until an overhead shot, unearched 15 minutes later, that we learnt that the score should never have been allowed.

Pictures can, and often do, say a thousand words. You could see the distress that Mike Catt was in at No 10 for England, groan at every tackle that Tim Rodber missed, wince at Andy Gomarsall's hapless floundering, but these were trifles not deemed worthy of mention by Rider and

Co. They collectively rejoiced in the so-called "positives", rather than discuss the fact — missed altogether — that in losing 34-19, England had conceded more points than in any match at Twickenham.

It was ironic that a game celebrating 125 years of the Rugby Football Union (RFU) deleted from the records England's previous heaviest points concession at Twickenham — a 28-11 loss to a President's XV, on the RFU's hundredth birthday. Maybe the guests did not wish to poop the party on Saturday. Brian

Moore was alongside Rider for some biting comment, presumably. The pit bull had rubber teeth. Eventually, he conceded that the touch-kick was poor. He might have mentioned England's lack of tackling. No one did.

For all that these were All Black wolves in Baa-Baa's clothing, it was the end of a long season. Their genius was crammed into the second half, but it required someone to put the grand theatre in context. Nick Farr-Jones did an admirable job in summarising the five nations' championship critically and incisively last season. It needs strong, independent opinion, not apologists.

Now that rugby league has given up the worst winter months and dumped the Regal Trophy, in spite of BBC pressure not to, it is open season

for televised rugby union. Rider is in residence at Twickenham for a month. It is *Grandstand's* meaty filling between stale bread. More honest objectivity would serve the sport and the BBC better.

Rugby Special has its critics and goodness knows John Inverdale's wardrobe deserves the flack, but sometimes it has guests who mouth more than platitudes. The quote of the weekend was from Jen Sleightholme on seeing his try: "Just enough space for the fat boy to get in." That was because Jonah Lomu was not where he should have been. Taking Sleightholme for Duckham, his try filled one part of my triple whammy, which was let down by England's defeat and the dread teletypewriter confirmation — Derby County 2 Coventry City 1.

TENNIS

Enqvist rallies to force decider in Davis Cup final

FROM DAVID MILLER IN MALMÖ

THOMAS ENQVIST, the player destined to lead Sweden's tennis future in succession to Björn Borg, Mats Wilander and Stefan Edberg, came off the ropes in the fourth match of the Davis Cup final against France yesterday to pull Sweden level at two matches each. Ranked No 9 in the world, Enqvist had been expected to overpower Cedric Pioline, ranked 12 places below him, but was initially overwhelmed by the size of his responsibility.

Pioline swept through the first two sets 6-3, 7-6. Enqvist groping around to find his rhythm. Recovering, he clawed his way back into contention, finally winning 3-6, 6-7, 6-4, 6-4, 9-7 after 2½ hours. The injured Stefan Edberg, who had fallen in the opening match of the final against Pioline, was replaced by the decisive singles, against Arnaud Boesoch, by Nicklas Kulti, ranked No 65.

The anxieties of the Davis Cup can freeze a player's mind. For the first two sets of his match against Pioline, Enqvist might have been playing at the North Pole. Seldom did the ball come off the centre of his racket. With victory being imperative, after the doubles loss by Björnman and Kulti against Forget and Raoux on Saturday, Enqvist's muscles were strung even tighter than his racket.

Vainly did the crowd chant "Too-mas, Too-mas". Opposite him, Pioline was steady, concentrating on keeping the ball in court, varying the line of his deceptive backhand and comfortably awaiting the frequent delivery of his opponent's unforced errors. Enqvist, who in recent weeks had confidently climbed the rankings, twice double-faulted in his first set.

vice game, and did not win a rally of note until the first game of the second set. Pioline, who won the Copenhagen title this year and was a quarter-finalist at the French Open, is not an athletic player. With his shuffling gait, and what seemed like a pair of Army tropical-kit white shorts — much cloth, not much style — he does not cut a dashing figure. Touch is all. For two sets, Enqvist was devoid of touch.

Yet his spirit was never submerged. However deep the crisis, he continued to go for his shots. He did not stretch Pioline to duce on service until the second game of the

second set, and did not hit one of his own thumping, two-fisted backhand passes until leading 4-3 in the second set.

In the next game, he missed two break points for 5-3, and though leading 4-2 in the tie-break, he stuttered miserably, missing set point at 7-6 when putting an open-court forehand into the net.

Pioline appeared destined to secure the trophy. Yet now, at last, Enqvist's game began to come together, though not without more missed heartbeats. Leading 2-0 in the third set, he squandered four break points for 3-0, but held on to the earlier service break to reach two sets to one.

If Enqvist had frozen, Pioline not began to melt, trailing 4-0 in the fourth set, then hauling himself to 4-4.

Enqvist broke a third time in the set to lead 5-4 with a forehand pass that wrong-footed his opponent, and in spite of a tactical locker-room visit by Pioline, served out for two sets all.

Enqvist has the definitive, unflappable Swedish temperament. Even when sliding 2-0 down in the final set, losing his service to love, he continued at the change of ends to wear that half-smile when sitting in his chair. He missed a break point, allowing Pioline to lead 4-1, and at 5-3 Pioline served for the Cup.

Now it was his turn to falter: 15-40. On the next point, Pioline served deep to Enqvist's backhand. With a desperate lunge, Enqvist scooped the ball back into court, kept the rally going, and reached 5-4 down on Pioline's overhit backhand. Four big services levelled the match at 5-5.

The next four games went with service. Leading 40-30 at 7-7, Pioline left a dipping cross-court forehand by Enqvist, which he had covered. It fell in. Deuce. The strain was telling. His forehand error and double-fault gave Enqvist 8-7.

Now, at 15-15, Pioline hit a towering defensive lob that was narrowly called out. His nerve splintering, Pioline was warned for knocking over a sideline judge's chair, vacant at the time. Extending the agonising suspense for his supporters, Enqvist proceeded to double-fault twice to go 40-30 down. He saved himself with a forehand drive deuce.

Pioline, the older by five years, was spent. Enqvist reached match point when ending the next rally with a forehand drive, and Pioline returned the next first service beyond the baseline.



Pioline, who surrendered a two-set lead, feels the strain during his match against Enqvist

Call-up gives Henman big payday

By Alex Ramsay

TIM HENMAN has been given a place in the main draw for the Grand Slam Cup, which starts in Munich tomorrow. The £3.6 million event promises to provide Henman with his biggest payday to date and even if he falls at the first hurdle — he will play Michael Stich in the first round — he is guaranteed £60,000.

The invitation has come as a surprise to Henman. The qualifiers for the richest tournament in the world are the top 16 players at the four grand-slam events throughout the year. Thanks to Henman's

efforts at Wimbledon, where he reached the quarter-finals, and the US Open, where he reached the last 16, he had initially gained a place as second reserve. That alone would have earned him £30,000 just for turning up in Munich ready to play. But with Thomas Enqvist first in line to fill any vacancies, he had to rely on two players dropping out.

He gained his place among the elite yesterday when Pete Sampras, Michael Chang and Todd Martin all withdrew. "It's a surprise, but it's great," Henman said. "I haven't even practised since the nationals last month."

Henman, ranked No 29 in the world, has already earned more than £325,000 this year, and had planned to rest after beating Greg Rusedski in Telford two weeks ago to win the British national title for the second successive year.

Not that he is too upset about the Munich windfall and an extra week's work. "It's a bonus on top of everything else," he said. "I've got nothing to lose. I'm just going to go out and have fun. If I win, that's great but if I don't, it doesn't really matter."

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Goalkeeper spoils birthday party

THE Cardiff Devils ice hockey team celebrated their tenth birthday on Saturday, but Ayr Scottish Eagles spoiled the party, winning 3-1 thanks to a well-organised defence and a superb display in goal by Sven Rampl. For the Devils, unbeaten away, this was their fifth home defeat but they still retained their place at the top of the Superleague table.

Newcastle Cobras, with a 4-2 win over Manchester Storm, drew within one point of the Devils while Sheffield Steelers, 4-1 winners over Nottingham Panthers, are only four points behind the leaders with four games in hand. Bracknell Bees remain rooted to the bottom of the table and their 8-5 defeat at the hands of Basingstoke Bison was their eleventh of the season.

Senior triumphs

Golf: Peter Senior, of Australia, withstood a charge by the world No 1, Greg Norman, to win Greg Norman Classic at the Royal Melbourne course yesterday. In driving rain and wind, Senior fired a final round of 70, two under par, to finish one stroke ahead of Norman, who had a closing 69. Norman briefly stared the lead after he sunk a long putt for an eagle on the par-five 14th, but Senior then birdied the hole to move the decisive one shot clear. Senior, with earlier rounds of 69, 73 and 69, thus gained his second win of the year on the Australasian tour.

Title retained

Cycling: Roger Hammond retained his London Open cyclo-cross championship title yesterday with a repeat victory over Barrie Clarke, the 1995 runner-up. Yesterday the gap separating the two at the finish of the 24km event at Addington Hills, Croydon, was increased from 45 seconds to 50 after Hammond put in a powerful opening 3km lap to take a 30-second lead, which he never lost.

Queen of speed

Skating: Katja Seizinger, of Germany, won the year's first women's downhill at Lake Louise, Alberta. Seizinger, ranked No 1, won the Lake Louise course in 1min 41.9sec, more than half a second faster than Carole Montillet, of France, who had a time of 1:42.51. Pernilla Wiberg, of Sweden, was third in 1:42.64 while the downhill specialist, Picabo Street, of the United States, was another four hundredths back.

Dual winners

Fencing: Quentin Barriman and Georgina Usher won the men's and women's titles in the British open championships at Hendon Police College. Barriman defeated Steven Paul 15-7 in the final, and Usher defeated Debbie Catchpole 15-10.

HOCKEY

Southgate weather late storm

By Sydney Friskin and Alex Ramsay

SOUTHGATE qualified for the fifth round of the Hockey Association Cup with a 4-3 win at home against East Grinstead yesterday, the visitors closing the gap during a thrilling closing period after trailing 4-1.

The pattern of this exciting match was set in the fifth

minute with a goal for East Grinstead by Gibson, but once Southgate settled down they forced numerous short corners, four of which were converted by Woods (2), Durbelle and Waugh. East Grinstead's late goals came from Laird and Boyce.

There were no surprises in

the remaining fourth-round matches, although an altercation in Hounslow's 3-1 win over Indian Gymkhana led to the temporary suspension of three players — Kirkland, of Hounslow, and Viridi and Michael of Gymkhana. Decisions converted four short corners for Guildford in a 4-1 victory over Cambridge City. Three non-league clubs, High Wycombe, Hampstead and Westminster and Chelmsford survive.

After the matches in the National League on Saturday, Cannock and Southgate share the leadership of the premier division, although Cannock's goal difference is superior. Crutchley inspired their 4-2 away win against East Grinstead with a goal in the first minute.

Slough and Ipswich go into the hibernation period still locked together at the top of the women's National League. On Saturday, Slough put three goals past Leicester. Mandy Nicholls scoring twice, while Ipswich did the same to Sutton Coldfield.

While Ipswich had a day off yesterday in the AEWHA Cup, Slough made their way into the fourth round, Nicholls scoring a hat-trick in the 10-0 win over North Staffs.

Hightown, travelling back happily after the long haul to Horsham, where they ran out 10-2 winners.

GOLF

Montgomerie makes amends in play-off

By Our Sports Staff

COLIN MONTGOMERIE, the European No 1, who had lost all four of the sudden-death play-offs that he had contested, overcame his flax to win the Million Dollar Challenge in Sun City, South Africa, yesterday.

A birdie at the par-four 18th enabled Montgomerie to beat Ernie Els, who had been cheered on by the "home" galleries, at the third extra hole after they had finished level on 14 under par after four rounds. The powerful Scott's second shot kicked off a bank and finished five feet from the hole.

By sinking the putt, Montgomerie gained some measure of revenge for the victory that Els scored over him in a three-way play-off at the 1994 US Open.

The play-off crowned a thrilling final day that saw Els record birdies at the last two holes for a final round of 66, while Montgomerie finished with a four-under-par 68.

They were one shot ahead of Nick Price, of Zimbabwe, and Steve Jones, the US Open champion. All 12 players in the event finished below par.

Ian Woosnam, of Wales, the joint overnight leader, slipped back to fifth place with a 73, after dropping four shots in the first nine holes, while Nick Faldo, of England,

the Masters champion, was in a three-way tie for ninth place after a 73.

Montgomerie admitted that fortune favoured his brave approach to the third play-off hole. "I was a little bit fortunate," he said. "I birdied a few holes early on, which helped. I saw others like Ian Woosnam having problems, and that gave me confidence."

"But I knew the main danger was Ernie Els. I am delighted to finally get one over him. Though he still leads me 2-1, today makes it a little sweeter."

Montgomerie said that his plan had been to attack when necessary, but to avoid errors. "I just concentrated on getting up and down and let others make mistakes," he said. "That plan gave me birdie chances and I finally got one at the 21st. I saw what happened to Ernie, who hit it to the left, used an eight-iron myself, and the shot worked for me."

Els had set up the play-off with his 66, six-under-par and the round of the day. Montgomerie and Jones had battled over the final five holes, with the lead changing hands twice as Jones dropped shots on the 16th and 17th, and then missed a ten-foot putt on the last green. With it went his chance to contest the play-off.

SAILING

Cape brings unspoken fears

Lacy Duncan on hot chocolate and cold comforts as she heads south for Cape Horn

to icy green. At one point, the water temperature dropped by 10C in just 24 hours. We are now accompanied by beautiful gliding albatrosses. The shorts and T-shirts have been well and truly packed away.

The albatrosses can be a bit of a problem; they are so difficult to ignore. More than once I have been brought to my senses by a sharp instruction to "watch that kite", as the spinnaker I was supposed to be trimming collapsed, unnoticed by me, lost in the contemplation of so elegant a bird.

Each watch-change now sees the new crew come on deck wearing more and more clothes. This is usually accompanied by a slightly pitting

glance from Chris Tibbs, our skipper, who has been round Cape Horn twice, and the comment: "What are you going to do when it gets cold?" It now feels quite like winter at home — not a time most people would choose to go sailing — and it is clearly going to get much colder. Soon we will be wearing virtually all the kit I have with me.

The cooler weather has brought on the great hot chocolate debate. Half the crew was under the impression that hot chocolate, of which we have a finite supply, was to be kept until after the Horn. The other half has been gaily digging into the supplies and half the tin is gone.

Amazingly, the dispute was settled amicably and the chocolate now has a preservation order on it until the Cape. Any breach of this could have dire consequences. "These things can develop an importance out of all proportion when we are living on top of each other, with the prospect of being cold and wet for a few weeks."

We are now free to turn our thoughts to the Horn and the Southern Ocean. Considering that we discuss virtually everything, little has been said about people's fears and hopes for the next few weeks. My major problem in describing how I feel is that I still don't know what to expect. All will be revealed soon.

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CRICKET: HUNDRED FROM STEWART FAILS TO SAVE TOURING SIDE FROM WORRYING DEFEAT

Bowlers struggle in lacklustre start by England

FROM SIMON WILDE IN HARARE

ENGLAND paid the price for the trial separation from the implements of their trade — namely bat and ball — when they were easily beaten by a President's XI in a one-day match at Harare Sports Club here yesterday. Several players looked woefully out of touch and showed few signs of having regained their appetite for the game that the enforced rest of the past two months had been designed to instil. Alec Stewart, who held the England innings together with a composed 105, was a rare exception.

Cynics might suggest that the defeat — by five wickets with 25 balls to spare — was according to the form book, as Zimbabwe hold a 2-1 lead in three one-day internationals between the teams. This result, however, must rank as more unlikely than those in Albury, in 1992, and Sydney, in 1994, as three of Zimbabwe's leading players — Houghton, Streak and Paul Strang — were missing.

What is most alarming is

that many of England's opponents were almost as rusty as themselves, though for very different reasons. Only five members of the President's XI are professional cricketers and some of their amateur colleagues are unable to play regularly because of business commitments.

Eddo Brandes, who played a big part in the win at Albury and took the wickets of Knight, Atherton (second ball) and Thorpe in the space of 15 balls yesterday, often needs to attend to his chicken farm. Dannie Erasmus, a talented batsman of 23 who played the innings of the day, a rasping 65, is training to be an accountant and can rarely be lured into playing anything more than weekend club cricket.

Craig Evans, who finished the match by smashing Caddick for a huge straight six, is first and foremost a tobacco auctioneer.

More predictable, but no less assuring, were the contributions of the professionals.

Alastair Campbell, the Zimbabwe captain, having realised that Erasmus, with whom he put on 85 for the third wicket, had put his side in the driving seat in pursuit of a target of 212, got his head down to see that they stayed there.

Guy Whittall lent him support and when Campbell was out for 45, he took over, finishing unbeaten on 36, to complete a useful weekend's work against the touring side. He top-scored with 58 for Country Districts before a violent thunderstorm led to the abandonment of England's first tour fixture, at Harare South Country Club, on Saturday.

As England will find themselves up against these players again when the internationals start in a fortnight, any complacency will surely have been dispelled. David Lloyd, the England coach, described the result as "inconvenient but not the end of the world".

That said, England did possess some plausible excuses. The toss was an important factor in the outcome as the square produced its customary life and variable bounce during the first hour of the day, which Brandes capitalised on superbly and probably better than any England seamer bar Mully, who swung the ball and conceded only 18 runs in ten overs, would have done had they bowled first. Gough was not playing, having bowled well in the first match.

With England 24 for three in the eleventh over, Stewart and Hussain, who played confidently for 50, had no choice but to rebuild the innings with care, but their partnership of 133 in 33 overs left little scope for a strong assault towards the end of the innings. In a way, they opted for a worthwhile workout rather than take too many risks.

Also, the match yesterday was played in sweltering heat and Caddick, a necessary inclusion but a week behind in his preparations after his viral infection, clearly showed



Stewart acknowledges applause for his century in the one-day game yesterday

the strain. He delivered nine wides and his 7.5 overs yielded 53 runs. A gentle net might have served him better.

Croft again bowled effectively in his one-day style and kept cool under Erasmus's fire, but there was not much to recommend the rest of the bowling. Tufnell never found his rhythm, and with Erasmus twice picking him up for two legside sixes and driving him straight for another, he limped out of the attack after

bowling four overs for 38, though not before the England fielders had orchestrated a couple of implausible appeals. Tufnell returned later to bowl with more control but by then the pressure was off.

Irani bowled too short for the second day in a row and was duly punished for it. With so little in the pitches to help him, it is imperative that he bowls an accurate line and length. He claimed four wickets over the weekend but two

of them came from rank bad balls. Silverwood was scarcely more impressive in his first match for England on Saturday, when he was clearly nervous and over-anxious to do well.

If there were extenuating circumstances to the defeat yesterday, several areas of concern have emerged for England to wrestle with. "This was a difficult game for us but sadly we were not up to it," Lloyd said.

McGrath displays welcome return to best form

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN CANBERRA

ANTHONY McGRATH had scored just 96 runs in his six previous innings on the England A tour of Australia, but there was no sign of such indifference from his superb century put the visitors in control against ACT in the second day of the match in Canberra yesterday.

Having dismissed ACT for 216, with Peter Such claiming the final two wickets after they resumed on 212 for eight, McGrath's 108 helped England A establish a 79-run lead with five wickets standing on an inconsistent pitch.

McGrath hit 12 boundaries in an innings that lasted nearly four hours, and conquered not only the limited ACT attack but also a pitch that seemed to deteriorate rapidly. "It's nice to get a few runs under my belt," McGrath said. "I feel as if I have been playing OK, but runs have been a bit hard to come by."

Mark Butcher and Michael Vaughan constructed a 61-run opening partnership and Craig White hit a half-century in 68 balls, but it was McGrath who dominated the day. "It was just a matter of application and a lot of concentration," he said.

ACT: First Innings
P.L. Evans c Hogg b Chapple 16
M.P. J. Vettori c Hogg b Chapple 17
P.J. Salway c Hogg b White 59
B.D. Hara b White 49
I.A. Gentry b White 49
D.J. McDonald c Hogg b Such 53
I.B. Robinson b Such 9
H.O. McLaughlin not out 9
E.A. MacKenzie c Hogg b Such 0
J. Smith c Chapple b Such 9
D.J. Thomson b Such 0
Extras (b 3, lb 12, w 4) 19
Total 216

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-39, 2-42, 3-64, 4-124, 5-155, 6-165, 7-185, 8-195, 9-214
BOWLING: Chapple 16-1-43-2, Hogg 11-3-28-0, Holme 5-2-22-0, White 15-3-49-2, Giller 18-2-27-1, Such 32-3-21-28-5, McGrath 1-0-3-0.

ENGLAND A: First Innings
M.A. Butcher c O'Meara b Smith 29
M.P. Vaughan b Smith 40
A. McGrath c Salway b Thomson 108
D.A. Smith c Robinson b MacKenzie 23
C. White b McDonald 53
*A.J. Hogg not out 31
*W.K. Hogg not out 0
Extras (b 2, lb 3, nb 6) 11
Total (5 wickets) 256

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-81, 2-85, 3-149, 4-239

BOWLING: Smith 18-3-59-2, Thomson 18-6-45-1, McDonald 14-1-54-1, O'Meara 15-4-54-1, Gentry 21-9-0
Umpires: B. Thornton and J. Hamford

New fast bowlers put Test batsmen to flight

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

LANCE KLUSENER, of South Africa, and Mohammad Zahid, of Pakistan, both pace bowlers, completed remarkable Test debuts by bowling their sides to series-leaving victories yesterday.

Klusener took eight for 64 in the India second innings in Calcutta, where the home side were dismissed for 137 and beaten by 329 runs. Zahid returned seven for 66 in Rawalpindi, where New Zealand, who won the first Test in Lahore, passed 100 with only one wicket down but collapsed to 168 all out to lose by an innings and 13 runs.

India, who faced a formidable target of 467, resumed at 59 for four and lost their remaining wickets before lunch. Klusener, who conceded 75 runs without taking a wicket in the first innings, caused havoc as he led the South Africa attack with Brian McMillan in the absence of Allan Donald, who had a bruised toe.

"It was a great fightback after losing the first Test," the South Africa captain, Hansie Cronje, said. "We out-batted and out-bowled them this time."

Mohammad Azharuddin, the former India captain, who struck the fourth-fastest Test century in the first innings, was again the top scorer, with 52 from 55 balls. It was only the second defeat for India in the 17 home Tests they have played since 1990, and Sachin Tendulkar's first as captain.

Zahid, 20, who replaced the injured Waqar Yousif, had match figures of 11 for 130 and was successful with eight appeals for leg-before.

The Pakistan manager, Mushtaq Mohammad, rates him "a yard or two quicker" than Waqar, usually regarded as the world's fastest bowler.

"There was nothing wrong with the pitch," the New Zealand captain, Lee Germon, admitted. Zahid swept all before him after breaking the opening partnership of 82 between Bryan Young and Justin Vaughan, although Young fought hard to complete a half-century.

Scoreboards, page 32

Unlikely batting heroes put sting in the tail of intriguing match

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT IN SYDNEY

SYDNEY (third day of five): Australia, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 104 runs ahead of West Indies

IT WAS Australia's first day of summer but purplish clouds gathered broodingly over Sydney as if to defy illumination of this enigmatic second Test. After three slow but gripping days, neither side had claimed ascendancy on a pitch spinning trust. This is a chess game, an exchange of bluff, probe and innuendo yet, like all chess games, there lurks expectation that it could be resolved by one dramatic intervention.

Australia led narrowly on first innings, only because their tenth-wicket pair was more productive than West Indies'. In two hours before the close yesterday, they were able to extend that advantage by only 77 and at a cost of two good wickets. Both teams are playing as if they cannot contemplate defeat, but, in these conditions, even this begrudging approach offers no immunity.

The pitch started out damp, presumably for fear that it would otherwise break up. It has negligible pace and bounce but neither factors are consistent and, as it dries and wears visibly, so it turns increasingly. Come tomorrow, it would not do to be attempting a fancy target on it.

Each first innings occupied roughly four sessions and ended with a surprisingly accomplished innings from a tall and ironical, in each instance the batsman, preening himself on unaccustomed applause has also been his side's most influential bowler: McGrath for Australia and Bishop for the touring team.

McGrath has developed into one of the finest new-ball bowlers in the world. His dismissal of Lara on Saturday evening, going round the wicket to slant the ball in before darting it away off the seam, was pure pedigree; so too, the subtle changes of pace that brought him two wickets in an over yesterday.

Bishop has been no less impressive, a transformation after his pedestrian efforts in Brisbane. Although only the fifth bowler used in the first innings, it was he who stalled Australia's progress. Last evening, after another misfire from the toiling Ambrose, Bishop came to the rescue once more.

McGrath and Bishop are quiet, shy men who have never sought the trappings of fame. Bishop has become a statesman within an often turbulent team; McGrath, almost unnoticed, has become a character essential to the Australia dressing-room, the country boy with the hyperactive tendencies of Merv Hughes, but none of the theatre.

He just hates taking jibes about his batting but he has

had no good cause to discourage it. Until Saturday, his 20 Test matches had brought him 32 runs with a top score of nine and an average of two. As Test batsmen go, he is not just a rabbit, he is Bugs Bunny.

On Saturday, though, something almost miraculous occurred. McGrath made dou-



Bishop: impressive

ble-figures for the first time in a Test innings, then passed his first-class best of 18. His home crowd cheered and laughed in equal measure, but McGrath was in paradise, so much so that when he was dismissed leg-before for 24, out of a last-wicket stand worth a precious 43, he remained rooted in his crease, not in protest at the decision, but self-disgust at missing a fifty he plainly felt was there for the taking.

Bishop, by contrast, at least shapes like a batsman and it was mildly surprising to find that his best Test score was a

mere 31. The 48 he made yesterday ensured that West Indies' lower order sustained the battle more resiliently than has been their custom. It also restricted the deficit to 27 when it might have been 50 more, which would effectively have put them out of the game.

Several times, in these initial Test matches, West Indies have retreated meekly and counterproductively to their trenches. More than once, Walsh has been at fault for transparently falling back on defence in the field, but at start of play yesterday it was the batsmen who seemed intent on distancing themselves from the traditions and reputations of the Caribbean.

Hooper fell when not even trying, tucking his bat behind his pad as he pushed half-forward to Warner. When Adams shouldered arms to a leg-break that almost hit his off stump it seemed Warner might run riot, but Chandrapaul's unfurled approach finally transmitted itself to his more experienced partner and they took West Indies past lunch without further loss.

Neither player, however, seemed able to step up a gear, and when three wickets fell for 14, the innings was once more holed. Adams became the third of the top-order left-handers to fall to McGrath from round the wicket and Browne chipped his fourth ball to mid-off. Chandrapaul, bemused by Warner's loop, returned a tame catch and it was left to Bishop to supervise the tail with authority, while Gillespie picked up his first two Test wickets.

The final session did not proceed quite as Australia planned but, without some conspicuous luck, it would have been much worse. Taylor had made only one when he was bowled offering no shot to a no-ball from Walsh. Later, Mark Waugh, unusually nervous, was missed off Hooper's off-spin, Browne fumbling the legside edge.

Bishop, meantime, had dismissed Taylor, through a juggling slip catch by Lara, and Ponting. Elliott survived through the gloom of the evening, growing in stature and gaining his side a safer foothold with every run.

TODAY

Simon Wilde on the Zimbabwe-born player that England left behind: Graeme Hick

AUSTRALIA: First Innings

*M.A. Taylor c Chandrapaul b Bishop	27
M.T.G. Elliott c Lara b Bishop	29
R.T. Ponting c Stanger b Walsh	9
M.E. Waugh c Lara b Walsh	18
M.G. Steyn c Hooper b Bishop	18
S. Stanger c Adams b Walsh	28
N.A. Healy c Lara b Walsh	28
S.K. Warne c Browne b Bishop	28
M.S. Kapuswick c Campbell b Walsh	21
J.N. Gillespie not out	24
J.P. McDonald b Adams	24
Extras (b 10, w 1, nb 18)	29
Total	331

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-54, 2-58, 3-73, 4-94, 5-131, 6-224, 7-243, 8-253, 9-258

BOWLING: Ambrose 25-5-12-0, Walsh 20-4-98-5, Hooper 14-0-15-0, Bishop 25-5-55-3, Benjamin 22-4-69-1, Adams 5-5-11-1.

Second Innings

*M.A. Taylor c Lara b Bishop	18
M.T.G. Elliott not out	45
R.T. Ponting c Browne b Bishop	4
M.E. Waugh not out	2
Extras (b 2, lb 4, nb 4)	10
Total (2 wickets)	77

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-51, 2-67

BOWLING: Ambrose 4-0-15-0, Walsh 9-0-2-0, Bishop 11-3-28-0, Benjamin 1-0-3-0, Adams 3-0-16-0, Hooper 5-4-5-0.

WEST INDIES: First Innings

S.L. Campbell b Stanger	77
S.G. Samuels b McGrath	35
S.L. Lara c Healy b McGrath	27
C.L. Hooper b Walsh	27
C. Chandrapaul c Lara b Walsh	42
T.C. Adams c Steyn b McGrath	30
T.C. Browne c Browne b McGrath	30
R. Bishop c Elliott b Walsh	9
E.S.I. Arthington b Gillespie	6
*C.A. Wallace not out	2
Extras (b 4, lb 8, nb 30)	20
Total	304

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-82, 2-108, 3-136, 4-185, 5-229, 6-229, 7-243, 8-253, 9-258

BOWLING: McGrath 31-8-82-4, Kapuswick 22-3-7-0, Steyn 35-2-19-0, Gillespie 24-4-2-2, Steyn 11-0-35-0, Browne 4-0-13-1.

Umpires: D.B. Har (Australia) and D.R. Shepherd (England)

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THE MARK OF A GENTLEMAN

FOOTBALL: DISPUTED PENALTY PROVES SUFFICIENT TO DENY ROBSON'S BIG NAMES

Middlesbrough felled by Yorke

Aston Villa 1
Middlesbrough 0

BY BRIAN GLANTZ

"LIFE is boring," wrote the poet, Louis MacNeice, "we must not say so."

He was a rugby fan, and therefore knew of what he spoke, but he would have been quite justified in saying as much of the FA Cup final. For all the fabulous flow of money, the bloated transfer fees, far too many games look like this one. Or like the Coca-Cola Cup tie that I saw Villa lose, somewhat bizarrely, against Wimbledon, four days earlier.

On Saturday, Villa won through a penalty. Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, predictably thought that it was a brutal injustice that changed the whole course of the game. Brian Little, the Villa manager, admitted that he could not see what happened, but that Dwight Yorke, who seemed to be cuffed by Cox while turning in the penalty area, asked him, plaintively: "What else could I do?" What else, he meant, but fail.

Yorke banged in the penalty, five minutes from half-time, and overall outshone "The White Feather", Fabrizio Ravanelli, whose features were somewhat bedraggled on this occasion.

After the game, too, he was not the same Ravanelli one saw after his dazzling display against Wales last January, on a waterlogged pitch in Telford. Then, you could not stop him talking, a veritable torrent of explanation, jubilation, self-justification. At Villa Park, he merely remarked that he was off to see his brother, and was away with an urgency he had seldom shown on the field.

Will he stay at Middlesbrough, who, in their long history, have won nothing more notable than a couple of FA amateur cups, and those in the 1890s.

Years ago, there was a comedian called Dave Morris whose catchphrase was: "Boro for the Cup!" It did not happen



Cox, left, the Middlesbrough defender, lunges forward powerfully to beat Yorke to the ball at Villa Park

even in the great days of Manton and Harwick, men who never dreamt of the money paid to Ravanelli, Juninho — hurt and substituted in the second half — and Emerson, who was suspended and, seemingly, cannot wait to get away.

Robson's view that after the goal Villa were able to sit back, soak up pressure and break was a strange one, given that Middlesbrough did not get a shot on goal until three quarters of the game had gone by, and then Stamp's well-struck effort flew straight into the arms of Oakes.

Indeed, the only difficult save of the second half was

made by the Middlesbrough goalkeeper, Walsh, a couple of minutes after Stamp's shot. Townsend, forever driving on that went not far wide of the far post. The chance had been made for him by Townsend, his optimism unquenched for all Villa's recent ineffectuality.

Villa did their best to sell Milosevic to Perugia, the city and club that produced Ravanelli. Perugia would not come across with the money so Milosevic stays and Little said: "He certainly worked harder than he had before the Perugia thing. When he keeps the ball moving, he's a handful to the opposition."

Savo Milosevic, another of the well-paid strikers on view, almost scored near the end with a hard, low cross-shot that went not far wide of the far post. The chance had been made for him by Townsend, his optimism unquenched for all Villa's recent ineffectuality.

Villa did their best to sell Milosevic to Perugia, the city and club that produced Ravanelli. Perugia would not come across with the money so Milosevic stays and Little said: "He certainly worked harder than he had before the Perugia thing. When he keeps the ball moving, he's a handful to the opposition."

Indeed, Milosevic was even seen, on occasion, to make adroit use of his usually dormant right foot. Robson made light of Middlesbrough's own, greater, ineffectuality. "You do soak up a lot of pressure," he remarked, somewhat obscurely. "Once you've silenced the crowd, you come into it and that's when you get in your shots in an away game."

Well, one shot, anyway. ASTON VILLA (3-5-2): M. Oakes — S. Sturton, R. Scarsdale, U. Shogbo — F. Nelson, J. Taylor, M. Dwyer, A. Townsend, A. Wright — D. Yorke, S. Milosevic. MIDDLESBROUGH (4-4-2): C. Fleming, D. Whyte, N. Cox, C. Morris — R. Houghton, Juninho (sub: A. Campbell, G. Hignett), P. Stamp — F. Ravanelli, M. Black. Referee: G. Wilson.

Liverpool on guard for Tottenham backlash

White Hart Lane this evening, and Liverpool are facing Tottenham Hotspur on the back of our best performance of the season, and their worst. A good time then, to be playing Spurs? Almost certainly not. In fact, I can't think of a worse time to be playing a live television game away from home.

Judging by some of the reaction to their 6-1 defeat at Bolton Wanderers in the Coca-Cola Cup, we apparently only have to turn up to collect three points. But you quickly learn to ignore all the talk of despondency, of crisis.

There has been a sharp focus on Tottenham this week, and on their defeat. Criticism has come from all sides, their manager said that he was humiliated and the players called it their worst performance ever. But they are hardly going to play like they did in midweek again are they? The cameras will be there, their crowd will be revved up, and they will have plenty of motivation.

It is all sounding ominously like the Blackburn Rovers game — and we were beaten 3-0 there. They had just lost their manager, no one gave them a chance, and yet they came out with enough adrenalin to stanch a boxer's cut eye. It will be the same again for us: win, and it will be no more than expected, after easily beating Arsenal; lose, and we will be the ones who messed up, no matter how well Tottenham play.

I know it is almost a cliché, but there are no easy games in the FA Cup. Tottenham proved by soundly beating us when they were bottom of the table. Spurs were hammered in midweek, sure, but that was a cup-tie. I didn't see the game, but experience teaches that there are plenty of ways for it to happen. You go a couple of goals behind, and turn kamikaze, then either you get back in the game, or get hammered. Heads can go down,

STEVE McMANAMAN



too, trailing in a cup-tie, it is easy to lose heart.

It does not hide the fact that Spurs are a good side, with players like Teddy Sheringham and Darren Anderton. Anyway, that scoreline was just the latest in a torrent of amazing results this season. Manchester United losing 5-0 and then 6-3, Chelsea at our place, us at Blackburn, Newcastle United losing at Leicester City and at home to Sheffield Wednesday. I think what this illustrates is that the league is tighter than ever. Anyone,

"The league is tighter than ever. There are no easy games any more"

really, can lose to anyone these days. I think the money that is sloshing around the game now has a lot to do with it. It means that all the Premiership clubs can afford some quality in their team. The gaps that used to exist between top and the bottom is no longer there. There are no clubs who have not got the faintest chance of surviving any more.

Look at Coventry City, Blackburn and Nottingham Forest. They are struggling at the foot of the table, but their teams are full of internationals. When Blackburn played

us, I think every member of their side had international honours. In the past, there were games that you expected to win, and did win. Not any more.

Now, it is down to the preparation in each game. Have a good start, make a couple of mistakes, and you will lose, no matter who you play. That happened to us at Blackburn, and to Newcastle at Leicester. A few weeks before, we had gone to Leicester and it was tight in the first half, but we held on well, and won comfortably in the second.

When Manchester United lost by five goals to Newcastle, Alex Ferguson said everything the opposition hit flew in. The week before, Liverpool created as many chances against United, and everything we hit was saved. We lost. It is down to factors on the day, a bit of luck, or something that turns the game.

Every player must be on the top of their game, because you just know that the opposition will be fighting for everything. Maybe there is more at stake now than ever before.

With the money from television and sponsorship connected to the Premiership, it is potentially disastrous for a club to be relegated. That is why even the bottom clubs gamble on big-money signings, that's why you are almost

guaranteed a scrap from the clubs desperately trying to scramble away from the wrong end of the table. Have a couple of players on an off day, or make a couple of mistakes, and you will be beaten.

There is no coasting in this business, it is pressure every time you pull on a jersey, because the competition has become so intense. That is why Liverpool will hardly have given a second thought to Tottenham's result in midweek. We know the adrenalin and the legs will be pumping, and we have to match that tonight.

Fans target goal-shy rivals

Sheffield Wednesday 0
West Ham United 0

BY NICK SZCZEPANIK

"WHAT a load of rubbish" was the chorus of the West Ham United supporters behind one goal on Saturday, and it drew answering echoes and ripples of applause all around Hillsborough. Although Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, pronounced himself satisfied with the draw, he would have found few sympathisers among the paying customers with the way it was achieved.

The reason is not hard to find. When a club of West Ham's reputation for attacking football sees November end with a left back with three

goals as joint top-scorer, all is not well. "Sad, isn't it?" Julian Dicks, the man in question, agreed. "But we're not in a bad position. We didn't start well last season, yet finished tenth."

All very true, but no more likely to mollify the purists of Upton Park than a pragmatic appraisal by Slaven Bilic, the Croatia international. "A point away is good enough," he said. "We avoided individual mistakes and defended well, but we are not dangerous up front. We lack a player who can play alongside Dowie and finish the efforts of the others. In the Premiership, you need a striker to finish in the top ten." That striker will not be Paulo Futre, with whom Redknapp has lost patience, and will probably not be Florin Radu-

cioiu, whose work ethic is questionable.

Fortune does not always reward effort, however. When, after 54 long minutes, Hughes's 25-yard bolt from the clear and blue beat Pressman but smacked the crossbar, it only served to spark Wednesday, rather than his own team, into a short-lived semblance of life. Before that, it had been a torpid affair, with misplaced passes very much the norm.

"We needed a bit of inspiration," David Pleat, the Wednesday manager, said. "Shearer would have forced a goal somehow, or one or two others, but they cost a lot of money. Never mind, it will be Christmas soon." When Pleat and Redknapp — and supporters of both clubs — will be asking Santa for goalkeepers.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-1-1): K. Pressman — I. Nelson (sub: S. Cole), A. Morris, P. Atkinson, D. Walker, L. Stracey (sub: S. Nicol, 40) — G. Whittingham, G. Hyde, M. Pennington, O. Toubert (sub: R. Humphreys, 70) — B. Catmore — A. Booth. WEST HAM UNITED (3-5-2): I. Milosevic — M. Rapier, S. Bile, J. Dicks, J. Bracken, F. Lampard, I. Bishop, J. Moncur, K. Rowland — M. Hughes (sub: S. Laczynski, 97), I. Dowie. Referee: P. Dunne.

Sunderland flush out Royle's weaknesses

Everton 1
Sunderland 3

BY DAVID MADDOCK

TO THE disgust of the home support, Sunderland's understandably chuffed gaggle of followers, crammed together in a small nook of Goodison Park, struck up an ironic chorus of *You'll Never Walk Alone* at the end of an indomitable performance from their side. It might have been an ironic statement on the match itself.

Rarely did a Sunderland player walk alone throughout a 90-minute exhibition of the team ethic. So frequently did Everton's players find themselves isolated that they might have been clouds, blown this way and that by the icy breath of winter. Here was the match decided.

Sunderland do not possess great quality among their modest playing staff. They do have immense team spirit, epitomised by Kevin Ball, the captain, who displayed a

work-rate that suggested he is particularly fond of spinach. Everton do have quality: maybe not as much as Joe Royle, the manager, suggested when he said last week that his side was capable of joining the cost-tails of those teams contesting the FA Cup. Premiership, but still enough to deal with Sunderland's spirited opposition.

Yet Royle was forced to concede, after a thumping defeat: "Their goalkeeper played well, but our goalkeeper played even better." He was right. While Perez made a crucial save from Stuart's carelessly directed penalty a minute after the interval, Southall produced stops in the first half from Ball, Rae, Russell and Ball again that got better with each plunge to the turf.

In the second half he improved again, bravely denying Russell and then managing a deflection onto the left-hand post from the same player that was the save of the match. So why did Everton play so badly after an unbeaten run of eight league games? It was not

Royle, or Southall, or any of the senior players who provided the answer, but 18-year-old Tony Grant, who could have been forgiven for not knowing. "It seemed that everyone thought we would win the game even before we went out onto the pitch," he said. "Maybe we believed our own publicity. We did not play well, and what makes it worse is that the defeat has cost us the chance of going into the top six."

There is no room for com-

placency in the Premiership, especially when, like Everton, you still need at least two more players of quality to hold serious title aspirations. They were exposed at the back, and the goals that Sunderland scored underlined a need for more strength in the centre of defence.

The first, after 55 minutes, was a simple move down the right, completed when Rae turned Unsworth and crossed for Russell to head classically into the net. He was unmarked, as was Bridges, the exciting young substitute, when he looped a header over Southall after a volleyed cross from Bracewell in the 75th minute.

In between, the introduction of Ferguson briefly served as an inspiration to Everton. The blood was pumping as he climbed to send a header into the roof of the net through Perez's scorched fingers. But even then Bracewell, with his immaculate passing and intelligent positioning, was in charge of midfield, ably supported by Ball.



Reid: happy return

Everton clearly need someone of Bracewell's intelligence in the centre of their midfield, and that fact must have been as sweet for the former Everton veteran as it was for Peter Reid, his manager. They formed part of the last outstanding Everton, midfield, and they could not hide their delight afterwards.

Bridges had confirmed Sunderland's superiority by stroking a loose ball home on the final whistle after Southall had produced a wonderful double save from Agnew and Gray.

"It's a smashing day, it's a wonderful place to come and I am just happy we have left with a result," Reid said. "Mind you, we're not a bad side when we finish with 11 players," a comment on recent dismissals.

EVERTON (4-4-2): N. Southall — E. Baner, D. Walker, D. Unsworth, A. Henderson (sub: C. Short, 80min) — A. Wardlaw (sub: M. Branch, 60), A. Grant (sub: D. Ferguson, 55), J. Peterson, G. Sower — G. Stuart, N. Barmby. SUNDERLAND (4-5-1): I. Perez — G. Hall, A. McVie, M. Scott, D. Wallace — A. Rae (sub: S. Agnew, 65), P. Bracewell, K. Ball, D. Kelly, M. Smith (sub: M. Gray, 70) — C. Russell (sub: M. Bridges, 71). Referee: P. Jones.

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Forest's free fall accelerated by opportunism of Earle

Wimbledon 1
Nottingham Forest 0

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

A YEAR ago, on November 30, Nottingham Forest had lost only once in 14 FA Cup tie Premier League fixtures, collected 25 points and nestled themselves in seventh place in the table. They were also halfway towards earning a UEFA Cup quarter-final berth against Bayern Munich.

A year ago, on November 30, Wimbledon had triumphed in only three of 15 Premier League matches, had gathered a paltry 12 points and had not won in ten league games. They lay sixteenth in the table, apparently destined for the big drop and, already, in line for all the insincere condolences that would accompany it.

Twelve months on, the role reversal is staggering. Forest are twentieth, bottom of the Premiership pile, and have not won in 14 league outings. The City Ground is also dominated by talk of a takeover, producing mass indecision among its 209 shareholders, with Frank Clark, the Forest manager and one of the Premiership's few remaining gents, reduced to no more than a bewildered bystander.

In contrast, Wimbledon lie fourth, hot on the heels of the far cats that so frequently admire and despise them in the same patronising breath. They are unbeaten in 17 league and cup games, closing on a 13-year club record of 22, and are mischievously, yet seriously, considering a UEFA Cup place next season.

It might conjure awful visions — the Crazy Gang gate-crashes Europe — but fantasy edged another, albeit hesitant, step nearer reality at Selhurst Park on Saturday when Forest

Hungry Wolves 31
Scottish commentary 31

were cut down by a 38th-minute goal from Robbie Earle. Gayle's 25-yard free kick cannoned off the crossbar and Earle reacted swiftest to tuck in the rebound.

Wimbledon did not deserve it. They desperately resorted to the crash, bang, wallop style of old, when they bulldozed their way past all and sundry, and even then only narrowly did they stay afloat. "You have an off-day sometimes," Joe Kinnear, the manager, said. "The secret is that when you do, you still pick up the three points."

Honest Joe faked embarrassment at being so close to the Premiership play-off, but for Clark, the challenge is all too real. No amount of obvious observations or jovial asides could hide the hurt; Forest are in a mess from top to bottom, from inside to out, off the pitch and on it.

"If that sounds confused, it's because I am confused," he said as one inadvertently convoluted explanation drifted off into the land of Colemanballs and Freud's Corner. "We controlled a lot of the play but just weren't convincing where it mattered."

As long as Campbell continues to miss close-range chances, as he did on several occasions on Saturday, and Roy, another £2.5 million-waste of space, is content to earn vast wages sitting on the bench, Forest will linger in the depths. Wimbledon, though, move onwards and upwards; for them, winning ugly has never been a problem. Europe beware.

WIMBLEDON (4-2-3): N. Sullivan — K. Korbly — N. Arnold, V. Jones, R. Bano, O. Leachman (sub: M. Hirst, 84min) — M. Gayle (sub: A. Clarke, 72), E. Bickel (sub: D. Holdsworth, 72). NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-4-2): M. Croxall — G. Lyle (sub: J. Lee, 72), S. Echemund, S. Christie, S. Pearce, C. Cooper, D. Phillips, A. Hissland, C. Allen — D. Saunders, K. Campbell. Referee: M. Reed.

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FOOTBALL: TEAM SPIRIT AND WRIGHT'S INDIVIDUAL BRILLIANCE SEE WENGER'S TEN MEN THROUGH

Newcastle toppled by Arsenal united

Newcastle United 1
Arsenal 2

BY SIMON BARNES

"PEOPLE work in teams because together they have the potential to create something they cannot create alone. By maximizing the quality of the relationship between team members, teams maximise their performance." The words of John Syer, a psychologist who works in sport and business, in his latest book, *How Teamwork Works*.

For most of us, teamwork is like a car. We recognise it when it is working well, but we have no idea how or why it does. And if it goes wrong, we are on the hard shoulder with the hazards a-flash, waiting for an expert.

To travel to Newcastle and play three-quarters of a match with ten men against the most spectacular attacking force in British football is, you would think, certain disaster. Some sides can, however, be galvanised by a sending-off as an additional dose of team spirit washes through them. One side you do not want to meet in such circumstances is Arsenal; the only worse choice would be Wimbledon. Both sides are remarkable for the way that their teamwork works: and, not by coincidence, rich Arsenal go top of the FA Carling Premiership and poor Wimbledon are fourth.

It is the tendency of new managers, especially those that arrive with ridiculous expectations, to change everything, especially personnel. It has been Arsène Wenger's early triumph to make the old Arsenal side more like itself than it was before.

He has introduced a single new player, the highly promising Vieira. Wenger's achievement has been to graft more ambitious notions of footballing craft onto the Arsenal tradition of discipline and pragmatism. So far, so excellent. Afterwards, he praised the spirit, the collective organisation and the luck: all traditional ingredients of Arsenal success. "The players have such a good relationship, such camaraderie," he said.

Ian Wright said it was a great result for the lads. The lads: a sacred concept for Wright. He played last week in a T-shirt, underneath his Arsenal red, that bore the legend: "I love the lads." The



Wright wrong-foots Batty, Watson and Beardsley to prompt another Arsenal attack against Newcastle United at St James' Park

Lads, The Team... a burdensome business for some who resent the need to seek their individual natures in a crowd. For others, it is the most fulfilling aspect of life. "I can't imagine not being in a team," Cyrille Regis once told me. "When I retire from football I'll have to take up bowls or something—just so I can be in a team."

Other footballers cannot wait to be alone, to go and play golf, perhaps. You suspect that everyone from Arsenal is in the bowls school of thinking: at least half the Newcastle side prefer the solitude of golf.

Arsenal went ahead because Wright stripped Peacock of the ball on the byline. Peacock had a day when his pretensions of being a classy defender were ruthlessly exposed.

His constant need to perform three-point turns must make him Wright's favourite defender. Peacock, beaten by the lad-loving Wright, lay on the ground to watch his torturer flick an immaculate cross for Djon, unmarked, to score with a thumping header. Well, you did not expect Ginola to track back, did you?

However, this seemed a temporary setback when Adams was sent off midway through the first half. Up trotted the Arsenal back line, hands in the air. "Please sir, the opposition is offside!" Asprilla was, indeed, miles offside, but trying to get back onside again. The linesmen ruled that he was not interfering with play, and the flag stayed down.

Panic. Double panic: it was

Shearer on the ball. So Adams bundled him down, preventing a clear goalscoring opportunity, and he had to go. Newcastle equalised before the half was finished through Shearer, a wonderfully acrobatic header from Ginola's cross. And so, it seemed, the floodgates would open.

But they did not. Arsenal are very well equipped to play with ten men. You play your normal defence, and leave Wright up front by himself to try to nick something. And he does. There are times when you think Wright must be the best forward in England, and he is still improving. There is no footballing equivalent of "street-smart", but there should be. Wright is supremely "pitch-smart", or "ball-smart".

Arsenal won the match with a quick break from defence. Wright holding the ball up for Merson and then belting through Merson's rather ambitious shot scuffed under Albert's boot and fell to Wright, whose finish was sweetness and light.

I looked back the other way as the break was on, and saw four Newcastle players watching with an air of bland condescension, strolling at their ease: *boulevardiers, flâneurs*. All day, it was ever Newcastle that were outnumbered. "A company of giddyheads, afternoon men," Burton said in *The Anatomy of Melancholy*.

Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, was gloomily anatomising his own melancholy afterwards. There are no

half-measures with Keegan. He knows no emotions but euphoria and despair. On Saturday, all his players were hopeless, especially Asprilla, and if they played like that again he would have to change the personnel.

Wenger was smiling courteously beneath his rimless specs as he handed out his post-match pearls to a substantial posse of French reporters. "Je prends," he said, *chaque allumette comme elle vient*. "Something like that, anyway."

NEWCASTLE UNITED (3-5-2) P. Shearer — R. Elliott, P. Albert, D. Peacock — N. Gillespie, R. Lee (sub: S. Watson, 80min), P. Beardsley, D. Batty, D. Ginola — A. Shearer, F. Asprilla (sub: P. Nelson, 46).
ARSENAL (3-5-2) J. Wright — S. Bould, A. Adams, M. Keegan (sub: S. Mironov, 75) — L. Dixon, P. Merson (sub: R. Parlor, 84), P. Vieira, D. Platt, N. Winterburn — J. Harrison (sub: A. Linighan, 30), I. Wright.
Referee: G. Barber.

Reluctant Parkes refusing to let success change him

Blackburn Rovers 2
Southampton 1

BY MARK HODKINSON

A SPACE has been left before the word "manager" in the Blackburn Rovers match programme. Once more, however, Tony Parkes has confirmed that his name will not fill the slot between Baroness Thatcher (honourable vice-president) and Tom Finn (club secretary).

This is highly unfortunate; football management needs men like Tony Parkes. He is chipper, as honest as they come. He shuffled into the after-match press conference apologetically. In his role as caretaker-manager he had just orchestrated Blackburn's second win in 15 league matches but he was insistent that the feat did not make him a proper manager. "I want to stay what I am, a happy-go-lucky chap," he said. "Managers are all down and miserable, they don't talk to you let [reporters] like I do. Wait until Mr. Souness comes in here, he's a proper manager."

Mr Souness is indeed a proper manager. His muscular defender, Van Ginkel, had been sent off, harshly in the view of most people at Ewood

Park. "Football is a cruel game. We deserved something out of today's game, at least the point," Souness lamented.

In the first half, Blackburn played football to parallel Parkes's personality: open and quietly charismatic. They passed the ball around Southampton and should have scored more than Sherwood's solitary goal, which followed a neat cross-field pass from Gallacher knocked down by Sutton.

Unfortunately, Woods fell

Full results and league tables ... Page 30

awkwardly after colliding with Hendry and was carried off with a fractured leg. Dave Beasant deputised and repelled the constant wave of attacks.

Blackburn stuttered after the interval and Southampton, waking up to the opportunity, created their own chances. The ball broke to the willing Osenstad and, despite Hendry's attempt to abseil down his back, he took the ball through and placed it meticulously beyond Flowers.

Southampton's Dutch import, Van Ginkel, who had

been irascible throughout, was booked for picking a fight with Wilcox. Six minutes later he was involved in an altercation with Sutton as he tried to shield the ball out of play. The Blackburn striker was undoubtedly the aggressor and rightly booked, but Roger Dilkes, the referee, had seen enough of Van Ginkel's shenanigans and off he went.

Sutton celebrated his pardon just minutes later when Donis threaded through a sublime pass. The striker guided the ball expertly beyond Beasant to record a just Blackburn victory.

Afterwards Parkes was drawn into speculation about his position. "Would he do the manager's job if asked? Yes, I would say no," he replied. But what about the money? "It's not about the money. People would give their right arm to be in football." Honourable, frank, impervious to money — perhaps Tony Parkes is not football management material after all.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): P. Flowers — K. Hume, R. Hendry, S. Osenstad — T. Sherwood, M. Wilcox (sub: L. Robinson, 87min), G. Gallacher (sub: S. Bardsley, 71).
SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2): C. Woods (sub: D. Beasant, 10) — J. Van Ginkel, R. Merson, R. Dwyer, S. Osenstad — D. Osenstad, M. Robinson, 59, N. Winterburn, 84 — E. Beakley (sub: C. Lundelund, 84).
Referee: R. Dilkes.

Strachan's tunnel vision fails to disguise Coventry's plight

Derby County 2
Coventry City 1

BY RICHARD HOBSON

GORDON STRACHAN remembers a time when he felt helpless in football. He had completed his second game for Leeds United, then in the old second division, lost 2-0 to Blackburn Rovers, and wondered why he had decided to move to Elland Road from Manchester United. Leeds eventually became league champions, with Strachan an influential figure — and a happy one — wide on the right.

He relates the story to demonstrate what is possible at Coventry City with a little hard work, despite the fact that they are one from bottom of the FA Carling Premiership. He says that he does not feel as fearful as he did on that Saturday evening in Leeds.

"There are just small, technical problems here," Strachan said. "There is light at the end of the tunnel." But how long is that tunnel? Coventry have yet to win since Strachan succeeded Ron Atkinson as manager. Indeed, they have just a single league victory to their credit all season.

They had the chances to

beat Derby County on Saturday, just as they have squandered opportunities since August. They are the lowest goalscorers in English football, with nine from 15 matches — a statistic suggesting that, while Strachan's problems may be technical, they are hardly small.

He will stick with his new front pairing of Dion Dublin and Darren Huckerby in the hope that they complement each other in the way that Ashley Ward and Dean Sturridge have forged an effective partnership at the Baseball Ground. One is strong in the air and able to hold the ball, the other quick enough to

scythe through defences. At 20, Huckerby is a decent prospect, assuming that his positional sense and decision-making develop. Sturridge, three years his senior, has added those qualities to become a real threat.

It was through the speed and trickery of Sturridge that Derby went ahead in the twelfth minute. He left Paul Williams prostrate as he turned sharply and ran forward before feeding Ward on the right. Ward checked inside Richard Shaw, who was judged to have impeded him, and Alfons Asanovic converted the penalty.

Dublin met a corner from John Salako with a glancing header two minutes before half-time to equalise, and missed three good chances to put his side ahead after the break.

However, Derby responded by replacing Paul McGrath with an attacking midfielder player, Christian Dailly, and the adventurous tactical change was rewarded 11 minutes from time when Ward volleyed beyond Steve Ogilvie from close range when Dailly headed a loose ball goalwards.

Despite taking ten points from their last four games to move into ninth position, reality dictates that Derby must refuse to aspire beyond survival this season, their last at the Baseball Ground.

"We are trying to build a platform where we are resilient, so that teams do not look at us on the fixture list and think they have an easy game coming up," Steve McClaren, the coach, said. "Our front two are playing well together, so it gives us a good chance."

DERBY COUNTY (3-5-2): R. Hume — D. Yates, P. McGrath (sub: C. Dailly, 71min), I. Smith — J. Lawrence, S. Fyfe, A. Asanovic (sub: I. Carsley, 88), D. Powell, G. Rowett — A. Ward, D. Sturridge.
COVENTRY CITY (3-5-2): S. Ogilvie — R. Shaw, L. Dwyer, P. Williams — P. Teller, N. Wright, G. McDermott, E. Asa, J. Salako (sub: G. Strachan, 88) — D. Huckerby, D. Dublin.
Referee: M. Riley.

Few thrills as United prepare to face Rapid test

Manchester United 3
Leicester City 1

BY PETER BALL

RAPID Vienna were not playing at Old Trafford on Saturday, but they were an almost tangible presence. With Newcastle United losing, Manchester United's victory over Leicester City was significant in domestic terms, but almost everything in an interesting rather than thrilling game was judged for its impact on the visit to Rapid Vienna on Wednesday for the final game in the European Cup Champions' League.

Leicester did their best to spoil the preparations, resisting determinedly and setting United the sort of test that will have more relevance in the knock-out stage of the European Cup — if they get there — than for events in Vienna. The opposition was, though, almost an irrelevance to Alex Ferguson as the United

manager watched Pallister, Giggs and Cruyff and pondered their readiness for the game that will decide their European fate.

Apart from some occasional bursts from Heskey, Pallister had a comfortable return as Leicester concentrated on defence. Heskey is nicknamed Bruno by the Leicester supporters. Watching him on one determined burst, as he shoved Pallister aside and repelled Irwin, that does him less than justice — Tyson would be more fitting.

"It was an easy game to come back in," Pallister said, "because they didn't come to win the game. They didn't give us any space in their half, and for a long time it looked like being a 0-0 draw."

If that meant Pallister had a gentle enough come back, it provided a real test for the United attack. Giggs picked up the gauntlet, running at defenders with zest.

"Ryan was on fire against Juventus and again today," Pallister said. "He gives us that real edge



Giggs ready for Vienna

which we've perhaps been missing. When he goes at players like he did today, you just don't want to be a defender. He can run so quickly with the ball and change pace and direction so quickly, it's awesome."

However, with Cantona still not

sparkling, there was for some time little end product. Finally, a tactical switch, moving Keane to play out wide, had the desired effect as the Ireland international powered past Izet to the byline and Butt got in front of Keller to run in his low cross.

The last 15 minutes were a different game. "Once the breakthrough came, it looked as if we could score every time we went forward," Ferguson said, "but that's what happens in these games. I think, when we scored, their legs went, and there was some exciting stuff at the end. It was then a question of how many."

The answer was two more. Pallister hit a long ball over Grayson for Giggs to burst onto and drag back for Solskjaer; then Butt chested Cantona's return past Watts before beating Keller.

Between the two, Giggs had been replaced by Poborsky, and the Czech international's mistake let Lennon claim some reward for an outstanding display in midfield. "I took Giggs off because, at that stage in the

game, for players who have had calf strains, tiredness comes into it, and I wasn't prepared to take a risk," Ferguson said. "He's an important player for us, and I need him really badly on Wednesday."

There can be little doubt about that. But if Giggs and Pallister will give United extra confidence for Wednesday, they are still searching for a leader in attack. Solskjaer proved he is nearer to being the answer than Cruyff, and will start in Vienna. With luck, he may see them through that test, but in the long term, a more commanding figure, a Shearer or a Ravanelli, is needed.

Ronaldo? "He's cup-tied, he has already played in Europe for Barcelona," Ferguson said yesterday. Come back, Andy Cole, all is forgiven.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-1-1): P. Schmeichel — G. Neville, D. May, G. Pallister, D. Irwin — D. Blackman, N. Butt, R. Keane, R. Giggs (sub: R. Pothorovsky, 87min) — E. Cantona — J. Cruyff (sub: D. G. Solskjaer, 57).
LEICESTER CITY (3-3-1-1): K. Keller — S. Grayson, S. Prior, J. Watts, M. Cantona — N. Lennon, G. Parlier, S. Campbell — S. Carridge — E. Heskey.
Referee: M. Bodenham.

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Shortage of world class on the Cardiff stage prevents Campese bowing out in style

Australia fail to match their own highest standards

Wales 19
Australia 28

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE southern hemisphere three, the northern hemisphere nil. A weekend of international rugby has brought three sides representing the southern powers to Europe and still the gap in class is evident even if genuine class was in short supply at the National Stadium, Cardiff, yesterday.

The curious thing about this match, however, was that while celebrations should be greeting an unbeaten Australian tour — only the Barbarians at Twickenham next Saturday can stop them now — instead their regret at their apparent regression from the heights of 1984 and 1991.

It was not the departure that David Campese would have wanted. Happy that the team, which he has always placed before the individual, had won in his 101st and last international, Campese at least turned the jeers of the retreating Welsh crowd of 44,000 to cheers as he made his final bow.

The jeers, in any case, were as much for the match officials as for a game as disappointing as the one at Twickenham on Saturday was uplifting. Iain Ramsay, in his first international, appeared at times to be playing to a different set of laws, notably where the knock-on and the ruck were concerned.

For all that, Australia nearly contrived to concede a position of comparative comfort from 18-6 up at the interval, then 18-9, they camped on the Wales line and then chose to run three penalties in succession rather than kick at goal. From the third, a switch between Giegan and Horan

went horribly wrong and Thomas cantered 100 metres for an interception try.

When Jonathan Davies kicked the conversion and added his fourth penalty goal, a minor sporting miracle had been achieved and Wales were in front, despite being overwhelmed in the lineout and beaten for loose ball. This has been a weekend for basic truths, however, in Bordeaux, at Twickenham and now in Cardiff, where that most unromantic of scores, a penalty try, finally ensured victory for Australia.

If anyone had the right to celebrate it was David Giffin, whose feats in the Super 12 this year pushed him to prominence. This was his first international and, together with the veteran Tim Gavin, he eclipsed the Welsh lineout to such an extent that the return of Jonathan Davies

Barbarian brilliance 35
Rowell's problems 35

seemed irrelevant, so little ball passed through his hands.

The little stand-off half rewarded an enthusiastic Wales start with an angled penalty goal in only the second minute before the Australians imposed themselves. Burke, with Giffin, the outstanding player on the field, levelled matters then went one better by snatching a try from under Iain Evans's disbelieving nose. Evans believed a mid-field knock-on had occurred but play went on, Howard chipped to the corner and Burke zoomed under Evans's arms for the touchdown.

When Brial peeled off a lineout maul to score in the corner, the outlook seemed ominous for Wales, who had already lost Taylor to injury, his place going to the newcomer, Charvis. Australia, who

started this tour trying to develop a mauling style of play, are turning to another with which they have yet to come to terms. It seems allied to old-style English play, much of it revolving around Horan from inside centre, but at this stage it has too much sideways drift.

Australia, too, are prey to the new fashion of ignoring kicks at goal in the interests of gaining a lineout deep in the opposing 22. From one such kick from Campese, spinning beautifully into touch, one metre short of the Wales line, Brial gained his try, but there are times when it seems a wasted opportunity.

Even so, Australia's command seemed immutable, the departure of Proctor and the emergence of Jenkins another inconvenience for Wales. Yet the galloping Thomas gave them new heart, and when Finegan was penalised for stamping and Davies kicked the goal, Wales had more than pride to play for.

To Australia's credit, they regrouped and camped in the Wales 22. Finegan was over the line but Howley, under-neath him, prevented the try. A collapsed scrum might have earned a penalty try for Australia and when Giffin was upended at a lineout, Burke's non-kicking foot slipped and the resultant penalty attempt flew wide.

It was all mere deferment. Wales offended once more at a ruck and Burke made amends. The full back then cantered towards the line and, if this had been a fairy story, he would have seen Campese on his right and sent him in for a valiant try. But Burke turned inside and was hauled down centimetres short. Finegan was called back and finally a Wales scrum, retreating fast, caved in and the referee pointed to the posts for the score that made Australia safe.

SCORES: Wales: Try: Thomas. Conversion: Davies. Penalty goals: Davies (4). Australia: Tries: Burke, Brial, penalty by Conversions: Burke (2). Penalty goals: Burke (2).

WELSH: 15 T Proctor (Llanelli), 1 C Evans (Llanelli), 6 Thomas (Bridgend), 1 S Gibbs (Swansea), 10 Davies (Cardiff), 11 Davies (Cardiff), 12 Howley (Cardiff), 13 Howley (Cardiff), 14 Howley (Cardiff), 15 Howley (Cardiff). AUSTRALIA: 15 T Proctor (Llanelli), 1 C Evans (Llanelli), 6 Thomas (Bridgend), 1 S Gibbs (Swansea), 10 Davies (Cardiff), 11 Davies (Cardiff), 12 Howley (Cardiff), 13 Howley (Cardiff), 14 Howley (Cardiff), 15 Howley (Cardiff).

AUSTRALIA: 15 T Proctor (Llanelli), 1 C Evans (Llanelli), 6 Thomas (Bridgend), 1 S Gibbs (Swansea), 10 Davies (Cardiff), 11 Davies (Cardiff), 12 Howley (Cardiff), 13 Howley (Cardiff), 14 Howley (Cardiff), 15 Howley (Cardiff).

Reference: D I Ramsay (Scotland)



Davies, back in the Wales No 10 shirt, had few opportunities to impress against Australia in Cardiff yesterday. Photographs: Julian Herbert

Welsh failings deny Davies the breaks

Andrew Longmore watches the Cardiff stand-off half make a solid if unspectacular return to international rugby union

THE game has not changed that much since Jonathan Davies went into exile, those eight years ago. Not even the rugby messiah, as his scrum-half Robert Howley had termed him, can play without the ball.

Indeed, as he spent much of the first half chasing shadows or with the head of Michael Brial, the Australia No 8, driving into his midriff, Davies must have wondered if league and union had not somehow fused into one game without anyone telling him.

For the most part of a strangely anti-climatic afternoon at the Arms Park, it was the deep-thatching skills learnt on chilling afternoons in Widnes rather than the art of dummy and run perfected in the valleys that kept Davies alive. When he returns to his other life, as development officer of the Welsh Rugby Union, this morning, his first memo might have something to do with finding a back-row of athletes to match the best of the southern hemisphere and a lock who can catch the ball.

Poor old Derwyn Jones, built like a giraffe and with handling to match.

Yet, somewhere in the mayhem, Davies's influence could

be felt. A matter of an old head on old shoulders. While his team streaked out onto the field, Davies jogged out, tenth in line, with all the assurance of a man who knows he will need every ounce of his energy closer to tea-time.

During the singing of the anthems, the ritual Davies said he was anticipating most eagerly, the stand-off half stood stock still, bandaged hands clasped firmly behind his back, his eyes searching for his wife, Karen, and his eight-year-old son in the stands.

There is no doubt his presence quickened the step of the crowd flowing past the Taff, those who have been used to approaching the national stadium in recent years with all the enthusiasm of a funeral march. Outside, on the streets around the stadium, there was a glimmer of faith and a whiff of hope.

In the mind's eye of the faithful, at last Wales had someone behind the scrum who knew what he was doing. And if that is cruel to a host of successors, not least Neil Jen-

kins, then blame Barry John and Phil Bennett, men who had elevated the No 10 jersey to the status of national monument. The weight had buried Arwel Thomas.

Despite the eight-year gap, the advancing age, the personal trauma of illness to both his wife and, more recently, his father-in-law, little on the rugby field would be new to the revived Davies.

It was for his experience, his infectious assurance, that the

Wales coach, Kevin Bowring, turned once more to the familiar, bouncing, figure. In that sense, he let no one down. In the welter of publicity that had accompanied his return to international rugby union, Davies had spoken with customary eloquence of the expectations heaped upon him. Equally, he had talked with a paternal air of having seen it all before.

While immune neither to the depression that has settled over the valleys since his departure to rugby league in 1989, nor the unrealistic hopes of his people, Davies represents an altogether brighter era. At least the Welsh then had a stand-off half to stand alongside the best.

Some rhythms have survived the travels. Yesterday, his kicking was untroubled, a long, hard look at the ball, a dainty move to the left and a gentle parabola through the posts. Five kicks out of five. Otherwise, it was a case of damage limitation. Davies's tactical kicking, such as it was, seemed rusty. The dummy is still in the locker, but the pace



Derwyn Jones: struggle



Campese was a peripheral figure in his final appearance

Queensland's young guns hand out lesson

London Counties 16
Queensland 64

By PAUL TROW

NOT all the Queensland side were as youthful as their 17-year-old centre, Lachlan Grant, but they had a collective spring in their step that a makeshift London line-up, comprising mainly third-division players, were unable to match. As one wag at Sunbury put it: "It was men against boys, and the men didn't stand a chance."

Queensland scored ten tries and conceded one, right at the end. The result meant that Queensland, at best a second-choice squad with so many of their first-team on duty with the senior Australia tour party, had completed a clean sweep of victories from their four outings in the Counties of Origin series.

From the moment their loose-head prop, Glen Panoho, went over for a try in the opening minute, the sparse but vociferous crowd were in no doubt as to what the result would be. Shane Drahm, Queensland's quicksilver, 19-year-old, stand-off half, duly slotted the first of his seven successful conversions and the Australians were on their way.

Tim Stoddart, the Queensland hooker, scored the second try after ten minutes, but the visitors only led 14-9 halfway through the first half after three successful penalty kicks from Craig Raymond, the London Welsh stand-off half.

The last 20 minutes of the first half, however, was a period of almost uninterrupted possession for Queensland and it was no surprise that during that spell they accumulated a further 26 points.

Andrew Coombe, the flanker, opened the floodgates and there were also tries for Damien McNally, Drahm and Mark Gabery, the No 8, who often doubles up as a lock forward and who was also involved in the other incident of note during

the first half when he found himself engaged in a bout of "head-butting" with Nick Oldham. Ashley Rowden, the referee, showed the yellow card to both.

The rest of the game was played in a friendly spirit, but that is not to say that it was not physically demanding. By the 65th minute, London had used all six of their replacements, and Britten Pearce, their No 8, who had been tactically substituted before the interval, was forced to return to the fray.

Within five minutes of the restart, London seemed likely to be submerged under an avalanche of points, with Queensland's centres, Grant and James Sullivan, each running in a try. Strangely, though, especially as they were much the fitter side, Queensland appeared to lose their competitive edge, scoring only two further tries, a second for Panoho and a late effort by his fellow prop, John Watkins. London, who battled bravely to the end despite being outgunned and outclassed, were rewarded when Pearce grounded their lone try in the last minute.

Afterwards, John Connolly, the Queensland coach, criticised his side's lack of second-half punch, and added: "I was disappointed we didn't have stronger opposition, but you can only play whoever turns up. This tour has been in place for 12 months so everyone knew we were coming."

SCORES: London Counties: Tries: Raymond (3), Queensland: Tries: Panoho (2), Coombe, Drahm, Gabery, McNally, Stoddart, Sullivan, Watkins. Conversions: Drahm (2).

LONDON COUNTIES: 15 Riekin (Havant), 16 Pinnock (Havant), 17 Reynolds (Havant), 18 Alexander (Esher), 19 Pinnock (Havant), 20 Reynolds (Havant), 21 Reynolds (Havant), 22 Reynolds (Havant), 23 Reynolds (Havant), 24 Reynolds (Havant), 25 Reynolds (Havant). QUEENSLAND: 15 Riekin (Havant), 16 Pinnock (Havant), 17 Reynolds (Havant), 18 Alexander (Esher), 19 Pinnock (Havant), 20 Reynolds (Havant), 21 Reynolds (Havant), 22 Reynolds (Havant), 23 Reynolds (Havant), 24 Reynolds (Havant), 25 Reynolds (Havant).

Reference: A Pinnock (Berkhamstead)

Midlanders crushed by power play

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

MARIUS GOUSEN scored four tries as South Africa A crushed Midlands Counties 62-7 at Coventry yesterday, their biggest win of their 12-match tour of Great Britain and Ireland. Their impressive all-round display was somewhat marred in the closing stages when Jamie Coetzee, a flanker, was sent off for swinging wild punches in a maul.

The South Africans brushed aside the home side's gallant efforts with ease. Gousen scored tries in the first minute of each half and had a hat-trick by half-time, when South Africa A led 41-0. They lifted their foot off the pedal in the second half, when the Midlands managed to exert some pressure, but their only score was a penalty try awarded for a late tackle on Wayne Kilford, the Midlands' full back, which Jez Harris, the stand-off half, converted.

The South Africans carried too much pace, power and physical strength for their opponents and ran in ten tries, with Louis Koen, their stand-off half, converting six of them. They rocked the Midlands right from the first whistle and were 12 points ahead within three minutes.

Gousen sprinted over inside 60 seconds and then Koen converted a try near the posts after an electrifying break by Dowie du Toit, the full back. The match was more or less over for the Midlands at that stage, though they stuck gamely to their task and tackled enthusiastically to the end.

□ Llanelli signed Robert Card, the Canada international, last night. Card, 22, from Vancouver, arrives at Stradey Park on a two-year deal as a potential replacement for Jonathan Griffiths, the former Wales international, who moved to Tenby United last week.

North no match for Argentina's speed

North Counties 16
Argentina XV 64

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

WEARILY and predictably, the discredited Counties of Origin series concluded on a humiliating note for the depleted North Counties at Huddersfield yesterday, whipping boys for an indulgent Argentina XV.

A ten-try victory completed Argentina's grand slam of the four English divisions, a simple feat given the low standard of opposition. Despite the uneasy peace that now exists between the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs (EPRUC) and the Rugby Football Union (RFU), the politics of stripping the divisions of their best players still meant the North was a pale shadow of the side it should have been.

Apart from the New Zealand Barbarians, the North had been expected to run Queensland, South Africa A and Argentina close. Instead, four hefty defeats in 12 days have disillusioned a once-proud division, which in its heyday upset New Zealand and Australia.

The McAlpine Stadium at Huddersfield staged three of the matches but together they attracted fewer than 5,000 customers. If this is the future of professionalism, there is no future, and certainly not one for the divisions. Again, yesterday, the mostly junior and second-team players who stepped into the breach toiled bravely, but they were heavily punished by opponents altogether stronger, faster and more proficient.

Argentina have scored 242 points in four outings without breaking sweat. As preparation for the international against England on Saturday week, the matches have been no guide. A problem for the Pumas is that they have yet to encounter opposition who can tackle. As the second-string team will play in the only meaningful game, against England A, four days before the England

match itself, the danger is they could be badly exposed at Twickenham.

Even a denuded North asked enough questions about Argentina's defence, temperament and discipline to suggest these problems could manifest themselves at a higher level.

But there was always their speed to get them out of any trouble and, although the home side kept reasonable pace for 25 minutes, they inevitably ran out of steam.

Despite the concession of early tries by Viel and Bouza, his first, the North were undaunted. Stabler landed the first of four successful goal attempts, including one penalty from 45 metres. Monaghan was quick and alert to touch down Stabler's angled kick through, but the good work was undone as Thompson missed Soler, who chipped over the head of Massey for his first score.

Argentina ended the first half with a flourish. Simone shrugged off three tackles for a fine individual score, Giannantonio wrestled his way to the line, and Soler side-stepped Massey for the sixth.

Stabler's penalty at the start of the second half was the North's last scoring contribution. They engineered some good positions, only to surrender them. Solari was unmarked for his two tries, Grau scored at the bottom of a rolling maul and Bouza peeled off the scrum to round off the North's black day.

SCORES: North Counties: Try: Monaghan. Conversion: Stabler. Penalty goals: Stabler (3). Argentina XV: Tries: Bouza (2), Soler (2), Soler (2), Viel, Simone, Giannantonio, Grau. Conversions: Viel (2).

NORTH COUNTIES: P Massey (Wakefield); G Monaghan (Wakefield); D Elliot (Rotherham); S Barrell (Rotherham); A Thompson (Wakefield); S Stabler (West Hartlepool); S Cook (Orrell); M Worley (Orrell); T Gannett (Wakefield); S Turner (Orrell); P Angell (Orrell); P Bass (Orrell); P Bassett (Wakefield); P Massey (Wakefield); J Doolley (Rotherham); Elliott replaced by C Lee (West Hartlepool); 50m; Cook replaced by D Scully (Wakefield); 52; Stewart replaced by A Ludman (Warrington); 52; Stabler replaced by T Handley (Warrington); 50; Worley replaced by R Latham (Wakefield); 70; Gannett replaced by A Moffat (Orrell); 73.

Reference: D Mene (France)

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RUGBY UNION: ROWELL'S NEW TEAM CAN LEARN FROM PULSATING ENCOUNTER WITH WORLD'S FINEST AT TWICKENHAM



A capacity crowd of 75,000 watched England and the New Zealand Barbarians light up Twickenham on Saturday with a memorable match that featured six tries. Photographs: Marc Aspland

Barbarians show England the task ahead

England 19
NZ Barbarians 34

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THERE will be an early opportunity to evaluate what England have gained from defeat at Twickenham on Saturday. The cold water thrown over them by the men from the real rugby world should mean a hardening of heart and elevation of standards against Argentina on December 14, if only to demonstrate to the players themselves that they have learnt from failure.

Failure in this match was, however, relative. If even Sean Fitzpatrick, the New Zealand captain, could admit that the intensity resembled that of a full international, then England could take pride in much that they did. It was a hugely satisfying manner in which to celebrate the Rugby Football Union's 125th anniversary, both for the ebb and flow, the contrasting styles and, in the end, the finesse of the New Zealand Barbarians.

"I was really pleased with the way England entered into the spirit of the game," Fitzpatrick said. What England entered was the world of modern international rugby, which is a world away from the static, stereotyped game that won them the five nations' championship last season. The challenge of the new year will be to ensure that they are not dragged back into the old world by that very championship, that the passing game that finally foundered under the pressure of the Barbarian defence can be sustained.

In Martin Johnson and Simon Shaw, they already look to have a pair of locks that will go down as one of the great second-row pairings: Johnson's qualities are well known, though he surpassed even himself in his work around the field on Saturday. Shaw, with only one full cap, shows such athleticism for a big man that every aspiring lock in the country now knows that, barring injury, the door to promotion is closed. Together they will give England a rock on which to build.

Yet, if the tight five forwards

prospered, it was instructive to hear John Hart's opinion of the England back row, where Tim Rodber played probably his finest game since the victory over South Africa in Pretoria two years ago. Hart, the New Zealand coach, described them as "the wrong way round," by which he perceives Rodber to be a No 8 and Lawrence Dallaglio to be a blind-side flanker. Maybe the balance there, as at centre, is a problem Jack Rowell has still to address.

Hart demonstrated an acute sense of timing as his players set about the second-half task of squeezing the life out of England. His own back row required fresh legs, so off

came Taine Randell and on came Dylan Mika. England had the opportunity to do the same when Chris Sheasby went down with a bang on the knee but the Wasp stayed on, confirming Rowell's already-expressed opinion that he is no great supporter of the tactical substitution rule. Yet it is there to be used and, as the game entered its final stage, pace to the ball became critical.

Hart pinpointed that quality of speed as the vital difference between the teams, never demonstrated to better effect than whenever Christian Cullen was in possession or when Andrew Blowers ran away

from Tim Stimpson for his team's third try. "Size is OK but speed, skill and strength are the critical elements in the modern game," Hart said. Speed of thought, too, which is where England were persistently caught out.

Yet some of England's approach play was as good as anything they have produced in recent years: the build-up to the two second-half tries, which carried them to a 19-13 lead, saw well-timed passes putting forwards into space before the killing thrusts — first the width of Gomersall's pass, which gave Sleightholme his chance, then the intrusion of Dallaglio and Carling's half-break to send Stimpson over.

That they should have achieved that position given the number of times the ball was kicked away from half back was a tribute to the England forwards. There are some fundamentals to the game that cannot be ignored — unromantic things like restarts and touch-downing, and Mike Catt, in particular, fell down on them.

Times without number Cullen, Lomu and Vidiri were given the

chance to run from deep by misdirected kicks and how they prospered. Cullen's speed and balance are wonderful gifts and they are matched elsewhere by Mehrtens and Spencer, two stand-offs whom every other country would die for. Mehrtens' shimmy created the void into which Blowers ran as the Barbarians, trailing 9-8, increased the pace of the game at the start of the second half.

Then Spencer, the replacement, erupted through two defenders, swerved round Gomersall and away from Stimpson for a marvellous individual try. Individual? It has been started by Fitzpatrick's nose for the loose ball and the instant support of the forwards for their captain.

Yet this was a benchmark for England. They will have the chance to measure progress in a year's time, when many of these Barbarians will be back in their grimmer national hue. Fitzpatrick, 33, and the outstanding Michael Jones, 31, among them. "It's a fantastic job, why would you want to give it up?" Fitzpatrick, 33, said. Why indeed.

SCORES: England: Tries: Sleightholme, Stimpson. Penalty goals: Catt (3). New Zealand Barbarians: Tries: Brooke, Blowers, Spencer, Vidiri. Conversion: Spencer. Penalty goals: Mehrtens (2), Spencer (2).

ENGLAND: T. Stimpson (Newcastle); J. Sleightholme (Bath); W. Carling (Harlequins); P. de Staville (Bath, captain); A. Adewole (Bath); M. Catt (Bath); A. Gomersall (Wasp); G. Rowles (Leicester); M. Hagan (Bristol); J. Leonard (Bristol); T. Rodber (Northampton); M. Johnson (Leicester); S. Shaw (Bristol); L. Dallaglio (Wasp); C. Sheasby (Wasp).

NEW ZEALAND BARBARIANS: C. Cullen (Manawatu); J. Vidiri (Canterbury); A. Ieremia (Wellington); L. Stammers (Auckland); J. Lomu (Canterbury); A. Mehrtens (Canterbury); J. Marshall (Canterbury); M. Allen (Auckland); S. Fitzpatrick (Auckland, captain); O. Brown (Auckland); M. Jones (Auckland); J. Jones (North Harbour); R. Brooke (Auckland); A. Blowers (Auckland); T. Randell (Otago); Randell replaced by D. Mika (Auckland, 60); Mehrtens replaced by C. Spencer (Auckland, 60); Vidiri replaced by G. Osborne (North Harbour, 60).

Referee: C. Thomas (Wales).

New Zealand's achievements put Rowell's problems in perspective

When it was over, Michael Jones and Andrew Blowers were joined by Dylan Mika in a huddle beneath the goalposts. It seemed at first that they were using each other's bodies to prop themselves up at the end of an intense, draining afternoon, but after a while it became clear that they were offering some kind of prayer for a safe passage and prosperous journey.

The year has been a long journey for New Zealand rugby, and the players have come through triumphantly. Winners of the tri-nations series, winners for the first time in a series in South Africa and now winners at Twickenham in a game that had official status in all but name. Barbarians or not, these Kiwis do not play friendly, even in red shirts.

"The waves, and the power, and the pace" — that was the memory of their play that Jack Rowell took home. Indeed, there were times when Christian Cullen and Andrew Mehrtens were speaking a different language to the more prosaic vocabulary England's players learn by rote.

"I am not depressed at all with our performance," the England coach said through gritted teeth. "We came up against a gifted, well-drilled side and did some good business." English rugby, he said more than once, the way people do when they are not quite sure about something, was "heading in the right direction".

It would be churlish to mark England too harshly on a day when they rediscovered some of the qualities they chose not to parade during the

Michael Henderson finds the England coach in enigmatic mood at Twickenham

five nations' championship this year. In a glittering, purposeful start to the second half, they responded to the loss of a try by making two of their own, and jolly good ones, for Sleightholme and Stimpson.

Temporarily, the Barbarians were rocked, before those piercing incisions in the last ten minutes left England exposed. The fact that Carlos Spencer, a replacement at stand-off half for Mehrtens, was the player with the scalpel, emphasised the riches that are available to New Zealand.

John Hart, the Barbarians coach, hardly needed to say that "Mehrtens had a magnificent attacking game," but, in explaining why he pulled him off in favour of Spencer, he

did so anyway. "With the intensity of rugby these days, we need all the back-up we can get." Would that England possessed similar imagination and style at half-back, but this is a country that makes a virtue of the pedestrian and the workaday.

"Ultimately," Hart said, "the game at pace got to England. Our speed and strength showed through today. To win by keeping the pressure on, by using the ball, even when some players were coming up for air, showed a lot of courage."

Hart spoke with lucidity, a quality that appears to be beyond Rowell, whose *obiter dicta* remain puzzling. He talks of a future programme that is more "interactive with the southern hemisphere" (in

other words England will play teams like New Zealand more often), and refers to "systematic continuity skills" (swift passing, one supposes). Doing "good business" is a bit odd, too. Does he stand in a corridor before a game, bartering with his opposite number? "I'll swap you Mehrtens for five of our lot."

No doubt Rowell enjoyed a hopped beverage of moderate strength afterwards, before gaining vehicular access to a major highway on the way back to his domestic property. If this is how the England coach addresses the players, then no wonder they cannot spin the ball out quickly enough to hurt the opposition.

It would help if Rowell showed a bit more humility. Whereas Sean Fitzpatrick, who might be thought to have achieved a bit in his time in rugby, wears his accomplishments with a delicacy that is not always apparent on the field, Rowell is afflicted by a clever-dickery that belittles him in the eyes of others. "I know much more than you," he seems to be saying, "and I don't know why I should bother to explain these things to dunces."

In one respect he was right. "I was delighted with the effort of the players," he said, "and we managed to play the football we aspire to play. We were not pleased to lose by such a margin but they played some cracking football." He may find, some time in the new year, that people hold him to those words.

So come on, England, be bold! You have seen at first hand what a little daring can effect. Let your poison be your cure.



Ian Jones, the New Zealand lock forward, leaps high to claim lineout ball against England on Saturday

BASKETBALL

Byrd call fails to inspire Palace

THE next time Alton Byrd, the Crystal Palace coach, threatens to walk out on the squad he may well mean it (Nicholas Harting writes). For, if the Palace players were hoping to persuade Byrd to stay, it took some believing during the team's 81-68 defeat by Chester Jets on Saturday.

The losing margin was 11 points less than ten days earlier, when defeat by Derby Storm so enraged Byrd that he told his players they could find a new coach.

He had second thoughts then, but the ease with which Chester inflicted Palace's eleventh defeat in 13 Budweiser

League games will not have helped his peace of mind.

With the strength of Ricardo Leonard (26pts) and Billy Singleton (24), Chester assembled decisive bursts of 14-2 and 11-3 from which Palace, for all the efforts of Richard Scantlebury (27), never recovered.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Champions hope to make early capital

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

ODSAL is an appropriate starting place for the Super League next year, when Bradford Bulls play host to Warrington Wolves on March 14. No club embraced the principle of summer rugby league better than Bradford, where crowds doubled last season to more than 10,000.

"An intriguing opening programme brings St Helens, the champions this year, a testing first match away to London Broncos, whom they beat twice last season with disputed tries. "It could be easier, but we've got to play them some time," Bobbie Goulding, the St Helens captain, said. "We won't be going in cold, though, because hopefully we'll have played two or three games in the Challenge Cup by then."

Wigan Warriors, the title favourites, are at home to Halifax Blue Sox, newly-promoted Salford Reds entertain Castleford Tigers, Paris Saint-Germain visit Sheffield Eagles and Oldham Bears are away to Leeds Rhinos.

Sky Television has dropped Saturday evening fixtures in favour of live Super League matches on Friday and Sunday nights. Early rounds of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup, in January and February, form the curtain-raiser to a ten-month season for leading players. The highlight is the 22-team world club championship and the season culminates in November with a visit by Australia for a three-match series against Great Britain.

Rather than a shortage of fixtures, the danger next year is from overload. The finish of the Super League season, on August 31, will bring the start of an extended Premiership. The format for the revised competition has still to be finalised, but it could involve all 12 teams. The 23 first and second-division teams will take part in an even lengthier Divisional Premiership when their league commitments end in July.

OPENING WEEKEND: March 14, 1997: Bradford v Warrington; March 16: Leeds v Oldham; London v St Helens; Salford v Castleford; Sheffield v Paris Saint-Germain; Wigan v Halifax.

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Christian Dymond makes an enjoyable transition from road to mountain biker on the Lake District fells

Keep changing down and watch out for the sheep

It was a propitious start for a novice: the Lake District fells flaunting their late autumn colours in the sunshine and three miles of disused railway line to ease the transition from road to mountain biker.

The bike I had hired was £1,000 worth of Cannondale Killer V with front suspension, 21 gears and a weight of 24 lbs. According to some, £300 is about the minimum price for a mountain bike that is fit for the hills. In general, the higher the cost the stronger and lighter the build. The most expensive mountain bikes cost between £4,000 and £5,000.

British Rail closed the Penrith to Cockermouth railway line in 1972 but what is lost to the rail traveller in Cumbria is a gain for walkers and mountain bikers. From Keswick railway station the narrow track bed of chipped stones winds peacefully through the trees east towards Threlkeld. One of the greatest joys of off-road biking is that you escape from cars and lorries. But on routes shared with walkers remember that those on foot must always be deferred to.

Every so often the track crosses the River Greta. 135 bridges were built on the 31-mile line, eight of them over this river. There are a few gates to open and close, and once I had to carry the bike down some steep steps which were obviously not part of the original track.

My trip was primarily based on one taken from Mountain Biking UK's Route Guide 796 (Keswick Stone Circle) and described by Derek Purdy, the magazine's Routes Editor. There are 36 routes nationwide in the guide, ranging from easy to very difficult. Mr Purdy says the Keswick one is a good introduction to off-road biking for both youngsters and adults.

A reasonable amount of fitness is in order to enjoy this

sport. Even so beginners to mountain biking should start with easy routes. There is no point in trying to hare up steep hills on your first time out, as you will find it painful and it might put you off trying again.

Mountain biking takes up a lot more energy than road biking, says 56-year-old Mr Purdy, who has been mountain biking since it was introduced into this country in the 1980s. He has written *The Northumberland Mountain Bike Guide* (£7.50, Ernest Press) and is now working on one for Durham.

SPORT FOR ALL



In addition to the Keswick route he suggested, I made use of the one supplied by the Keswick Mountain Bike Centre. I deviated onto this one after reaching the busy A66 at Threlkeld, and followed the main road for about a hundred yards before turning left into Threlkeld and then left again 400 yards later on to the tarmac surface of Bleas Road.

So far my average level of fitness had scarcely been tested, but for the next 15 to 20 minutes I was in the lowest of 21 gears, plodding at a steady pace towards the Blencathra field-studies Centre.

From the centre the views south across St John's in the Vale to the fells would have been spectacular, only they were covered by cloud. "I think we're going to get a drop," said a passing walker with massive understatement. A few minutes later a few



Nathalie Fiat of France shows how the sport of mountain biking racing is done as she competes in the Mountain Bike Downhill World Cup

despondent sheep had joined me for shelter behind a dry-stone wall, watching solemnly as I chewed my sandwiches in the rain.

It was a mark of the exhilaration and enjoyment of the ride that the wind and rain bothered me little. By now I was on a stony and undulating footpath following the barren flanks of the hills north along the Glenderaterra Beck. There was the odd fast-flowing stream to cross and bigger stones to watch out for.

I found I was changing gear a lot, which I had been told at the Keswick Mountain Bike Centre was part and parcel of the sport. After all, you have to use the gears to make the ride as easy as possible for yourself.

Helmets — Mr Purdy says good-looking ones often encourage people to wear them — and eye protectors are vital. The eye protectors may be just sunglasses but the important thing is to stop stones, muck and anything else from getting into your eyes.

After nearly two miles of this rough track, and with the

2,847 ft of Blencathra to my right, I decided to go back the same way and pick up Derek Purdy's route south west of Threlkeld — but not before retreating behind another dry stone wall. At this point there was just me, a few scattered sheep and the looming presence of the fells.

I rode down the steep hill back into the village with glee and then crossed the A66 and took a small road, close to where I had originally emerged from the railway track, signposted Castlerigg Stone Circle. I was back on tarmac but my legs were on holiday. The exertions of the previous three hours had taken their toll and I was forced to dismount occasionally and walk.

The road back to Keswick via the stone circle — a collection of about 40 stones dating from Neolithic times — is well marked and the views from Castlerigg itself are wonderful. From there it is two miles back into the town, much of it downhill. And that suited me fine.



Biking gives you the chance to enjoy spectacular views

MAGAZINES

- Mountain Biking UK, £2.95.
- Mountain Biking UK Route Guide 796, from magazine (01225 822510). £3.95 inc p & p.
- Mountain Bike PRO, £2.95.
- Mountain Biker International, £2.70.
- Keswick Mountain Bike Centre (017687 75202).



Racing in the mountains

The Keswick Mountain Bike Centre charged me £15 for the hire of bike, a price which included two absolute essentials — a helmet, £30-£40 to buy, and a tool kit consisting of spare inner tubes, lock, Allen key, box spanner, puncture repair kit, tyre levers and pump.

As for my clothes, I didn't exactly cut a dash but I was warm and damp-proof. Gloves (£5-£25 to buy) are advisable and so are eye protectors/sunglasses/goggles (£20 plus). In winter wear a thermal vest (£20 plus), then a thermal fleece (£35-£40 plus) and on top a lightweight, waterproof jacket (£40 plus). Cycle shorts cost £25-£30, leggings £30-£40, cycle shoes £45 plus, rucksack £25 plus and bum bag £15-£25.

CHRISTIAN DYMOND

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Look at this hand from the quarter-final of the Open event of the Olympiad. Two players went down in a contract you would expect to be made round the room at a club duplicate. How would you play Four Hearts?

Dealer North	East-West Game	IMPs
♠ J ♥ 10 9 8 7 ♦ 7 6 5 ♣ 9 8 6 5 2	♠ 7 2 ♥ Q J ♦ 10 9 8 ♣ K J 10 7 4 3	
♠ A 10 4 3 ♥ A K 5 3 2 ♦ A K ♣ A Q		

Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: king of spades

When Denmark played Italy, the Denmark South opened Two Clubs (strong) after two passes. West overcalled: Two Spades and South ended up in Four Hearts. West led the king of spades. Declarer won, ruffed a spade at trick two, came to hand with a diamond and ruffed another spade in dummy. That wasn't a success — East overruffed, and the defence cross-ruffed clubs and spades for the next three tricks to take the contract one off.

In the quarter-final between Iceland and Indonesia, the Iceland declarer also went down in Four Hearts, having heard that West was long in spades and diamonds. Again declarer failed to draw trumps, and allowed the same defensive cross-ruff to develop.

You might think the hand is an elementary matter of counting tricks. If declarer lays down the ace of hearts at trick two and everyone fol-

lows, the contract is home — he plays a second high heart, and even if they turn out to be 3-1, he has in hand a spade trick, four heart tricks and three tricks in the minors.

After the second high trump he ruffs a spade in dummy, returns to the ace of diamonds and ruffs another spade. As the cards lie that line would have produced two overtricks. If someone shows out on the first heart, there is still the possibility of the club finesse.

So do you think both declarers misplayed? I think you have to give them a little benefit of doubt. It was clearly unlucky to go off as they did. And by playing to ruff three spades they might have overcome a 4-0 break with the king of clubs offside.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Timman wins

Jan Timman, the popular Dutch grandmaster, has won the Dutch championship for the ninth time. Having tied for first place in the championship tournament proper, Timman then had to contest a match against Ivan Sokolov, the former Bosnian grandmaster, who has been resident in Holland for some time. In the past year or so, Timman's results have been unimpressive and he began this match a severe underdog with a rating of 2,590 as opposed to Sokolov's 2,670. Nevertheless, Timman's superior match experience, which includes a number of extended contests against Anatoly Karpov, and a short match against Garry Kasparov, eventually told in his favour. Nevertheless, things looked black for Timman when he lost the first game.

White: Jan Timman
Black: Ivan Sokolov
Dutch Championship play-off
Holland, November 1996

Queen's Gambit Declined
Slav Defence

1 d4	c5
2 c4	c6
3 Nf3	Nf6
4 Nc3	a6
5 g3	dxc4
6 Bg2	g5
7 Bg2	Bg7
8 d5	d4
9 e3	e5
10 Ne5	Ne6
11 Nxc4	Nb4
12 Qe2	Bg4
13 B3	Bc6

White to play. This position is from the game Capablanca — Graham, Newcastle 1919. White has great pressure along the open c-file and the h1-a8 diagonal. How did he combine these two elements to force a quick win?

14 Rd1	c5
15 dxc5	Qc7
16 Nb5	Rc8
17 Rxb8	Rd8
18 e4	Rd3
19 Bh1	Ng4
20 Nbd5	Qxc5+
21 Kg2	Bxc6
22 Nc5	Nc5
23 exd5	Ne5
24 Bf4	Qxc5
25 Rf3	Rf3
26 bxc3	Nc6
27 Qb5	Qa2+
28 Kh3	Qxc3
29 Bc3	h6
30 Be4	Qa1
31 Kg2	Qa2+
32 Kh1	Qf2
33 Qb1	e5

White resigns

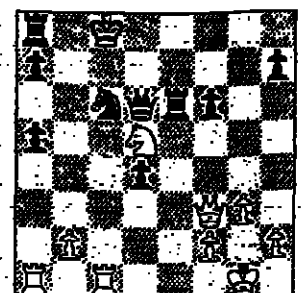
Diagram of final position							
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
8							
7							
6							
5							
4							
3							
2							
1							

FINAL SCORES
Timman 10, 1 + 1 2+
Sokolov 10, 0 + 0 1+
In the above table, 1 represents a win, + a draw and 0 a loss.

Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in The Times, and is available now from bookshops or from B.T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01376 321276 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.



Solution on page 46

EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES

Save £2 on China exhibition tickets



The Times, in association with the British Museum, gives you the opportunity to get a discount off the price of tickets for the China exhibition. Instead of the full price of £5, Times readers can buy tickets for £3 each.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

CHANGING TIMES

By Philip Howard

VENTRE A TERRE

- a. Fast
- b. Creepy-crawly
- c. How an army marches

LE FIVE O'CLOCK

- a. The rush hour
- b. Ten time
- c. Paris Soir

BOURRICHON

- a. A horse
 - b. A nut
 - c. A chocolate croissant
- MESSIEURS-DAMES
- a. Mixed toilets
 - b. Female army officers
 - c. Gays

Answers on page 46

By Raymond Keene

CHARTER MARKS

FOCUS

Reaping the reward for setting new standards of service: Edward Fennell introduces a three-page special report on Charter Marks

The sign of excellence

This morning, at about the same time as the newspapers were delivered, the 80 staff of the Sheltered Housing Service of Vale Royal Borough Council, Cheshire, received letters at home telling them that they had won a 1996 Charter Mark. Later today representatives of the service, along with about 320 other organisations, will be at Westminster to receive their Charter Marks and to meet ministers.

For Rita Hollens and her colleagues in Vale Royal, the Charter Mark is an acknowledgement of a job well done. "The staff will be thrilled because it is confirmation that we are providing the public with a good service," she says.

The annual award of Charter Marks (this is the fifth year) is the only occasion in the year when the quality of public services is acknowledged nationally.

It is not a dramatic story. Good public services are quiet and often mundane. But they are also essential. The public sector has traditionally declined to blow its own trumpet. Through the Charter Marks, that is being remedied.

Charter Marks are awarded only after rigorous examination. Organisations must undergo a tough scrutiny in which all the interested parties — not least their customers, clients or patients — are quizzed. Many organisations consider applying. Few, however, are chosen.

The award of a Charter Mark is intended to represent a sign of excellence in public service. As John Major said while presenting the 1994 Charter Mark Awards: "When I set up the Charter Mark Award programme, I had two aims. First, to show my real appreciation of those people who provide an excellent service to the public. They have always been there, but their dedication has not been recognised in the past as it should be. Secondly, I wanted to show the world what people in public service can achieve: provide examples for others to follow, a benchmark by which others can judge their own performance."

The programme now operates under the auspices of the Cabinet Office with recommendations for awards being made by a panel of independent judges chaired by

Lord Blyth of Rowington. The programme covers all the public services — health, education, local and central government and agencies, and also the public utilities, which still have monopolies. When they were first established in 1992 there was a strict limit set on the number of awards to be made — and for the next two years, fewer than 100 were handed out. Last year, however, there was a change of tack. The "cap" was lifted and any organisations which applied and which could satisfy the Charter Mark standard, as defined in nine criteria of good practice, would be successful.

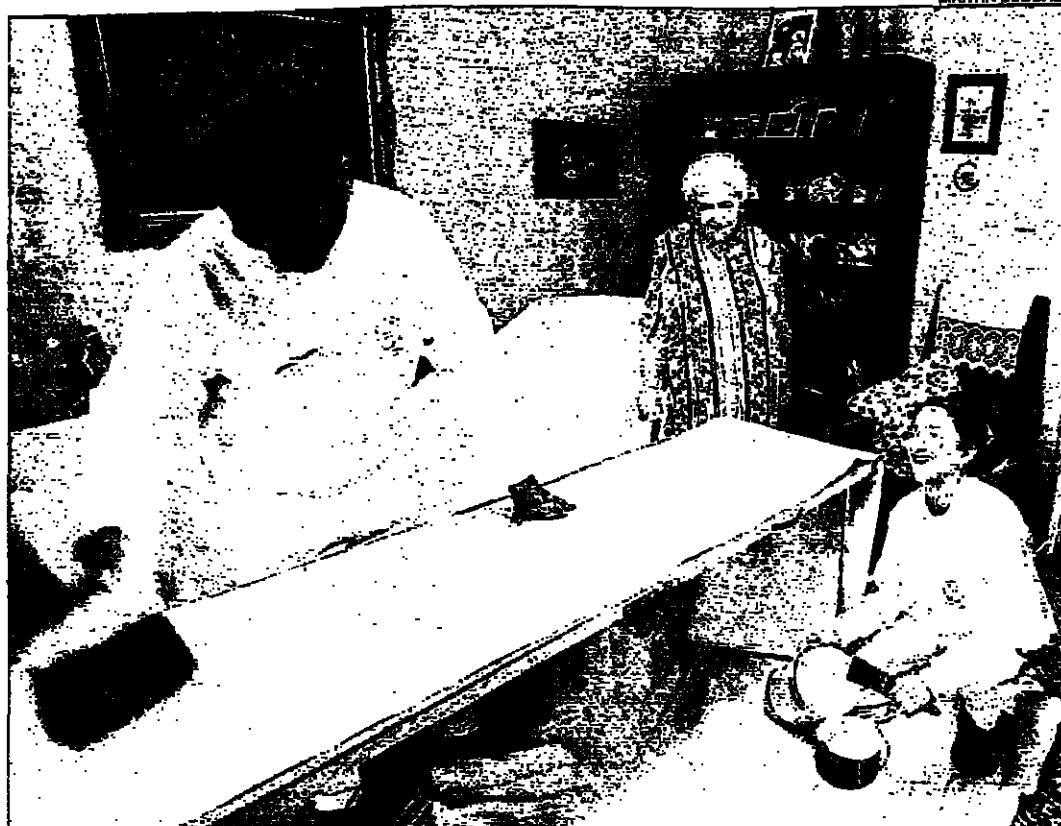
Once an organisation gains an award, it normally holds it for three years before being invited to apply for reassessment. British Gas bailed out of the programme last year before getting "sacked" after a series of public embarrassments, and this year there are several re-applicants from 1993 (including, for example, the War Pensions Agency and the Merthyr Tydfil Consumer Advice service) which failed to make the grade.

Fortunately the London Borough

of Lewisham's "Directeam" Cleaning Services successfully negotiated the reassessment. But how would they have felt if they had failed? Cathy Rooney, their spokeswoman, says: "It would have been a grave disappointment and we would have had to go back to the drawing board to see where we went wrong and examine how we could restore the quality of our service."

So, year-on-year Charter Mark is growing. As well as increasing numbers, the scope of the initiative is developing. The Cabinet Office team which runs the operation is providing an increasing number of advisory and feedback services. Charter Mark is, in effect, on its way to becoming a club which offers a variety of benefits including advice and networking.

But what is obvious from talking to this year's winners is that, above all, the public services long for recognition and appreciation. After all the brickbats and negative comments, Charter Mark may go some way towards restoring pride to public service workers.



Winning smiles: two decorators from the London borough of Hackney, which has won a Charter Mark for its service for pensioners and the disabled, prepare to decorate a sitting room

Bouquets for the people's champions

When the public starts honouring its unsung heroes, that's progress

Behind the award of today's Charter Marks lies the wider debate about the quality of public services in the UK. Edward Fennell writes.

The Government would say its innovations, ranging from the national curriculum and league tables for schools to the internal market for the NHS, have been vital in raising standards. The Opposition responds with claims of failing services due to inadequate or misapplied resources.

Although the numbers involved in Charter Mark are still small, Roger Freeman, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and the minister responsible for the programme, suggests that these winning organisations reflect a change in the culture of a public sector that is becoming more responsive to what the public wants and is providing better value for money.

For example, the biggest growth in the awards this year has been in local government, most of which is not, of course, Conservative-controlled. Mr Freeman says he is particularly pleased by this. He says: "The improvements are in the best tradition of the public sector in the UK by providing services which are of recognisable quality."

Whether today's winners are a thin crust of excellence on top of a mediocre system or whether they represent a more general change is bound to be open to debate. Mr Freeman points out, however, that the number of actual entries is only a fraction of those who are interested in the awards and have absorbed the message they carry. There is strong anecdotal evidence that many public-sector organisations are re-fashioning the systems they use to take account of Charter Mark principles. "The benefits and improvements will be seen in the years ahead," Mr Freeman says.

In any case, another encouraging feature Mr Freeman highlights is the success of the decision to invite the public to nominate organisations for good performance. Publicity for this was distributed through Tesco and thousands of recommendations were received as a result. Mr Freeman says this suggests that people are increasingly impressed by the quality of the services they receive on a day-to-day basis. The sensational stories of failure "at the margin", such as The Ridings School in Calderdale, are exceptional.

"What we are really talking about is good government," Mr Freeman says. "We reckon there are now about 10,000 local charters in operation, in which organisations publish their standards of service and can be held accountable for delivery. It is through such

measures that standards are being raised."

He says he would like to see more organisations applying for Charter Marks, especially schools and family doctors' surgeries.

He believes there are many good examples to be found in these sectors once people come forward to report what they are doing. As well as being a stimulus to raise standards, the Charter Mark shows that excellence already exists within the system. He says: "What we have seen is that given the opportunity people take great pride in their local services. There is always a lot of interest locally in Charter Mark success stories. People value their local services and this is one way of recognising and acknowledging that."

Charter Mark is also about raising the performance of public-sector management. Mr Freeman points out that,



Roger Freeman: praising councils and avoiding party politics

without any extra expenditure, effort and good organisation, together with some imagination and sensitivity, will produce better public services. Competition and the bottom line provide the incentive for efficiency and cost-effectiveness in the private sector, but the public sector requires different measures and motivation.

Yet despite the successes embodied in the Charter Mark programme, Mr Freeman is reluctant to try to make partisan political capital out of it.

"Charter Mark has gained broad party support across the political spectrum and is on solid foundations. We don't intend to gain electoral advantage from it," he says.

"The true interpretation of the significance of Charter Mark remains a conundrum. Even so, the quality of the winners is clear and many public services are now run in a more professional way than ever before. We are talking about exceptional quality and service from a small number of organisations but I believe they are an inspiration for improvement in the quality of the public sector as a whole."

APPLY HERE IF YOU WANT TO BE RECOGNISED.



Today 323 organisations will receive a Charter Mark for the outstanding service they give to the public. If you want your organisation to be recognised for the work it does, call 0345 22 32 42 for more information on how to apply. Or, simply fill in the form below. Alternatively, if you have used a public service which you think has been outstanding, you can nominate them by calling 0645 400 444.



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Send form in (BLOCK CAPITALS) to Charter Mark Office, FREEPOST, (ANG 1220), Basildon, Essex SS15 6ZZ.

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Job Title _____

Name of Organisation _____

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MAKE YOUR MARK

Edward Fennell predicts continued success for a scheme generally backed by political parties; Lucy Hodges looks at case studies

A winner — and it is here to stay

It is highly likely that today's Charter Mark ceremony will be repeated this time next year, no matter who occupies No 10 Downing Street. Although Labour yesterday made specific criticism of this year's awards (see Page 9), in a document published in October, which in many respects was highly critical of the Government's approach to the public sector, Derek Foster, MP, the Shadow Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, was surprisingly generous.

"The scheme has proved popular, particularly in encouraging public services to improve and it should continue," he said. At the same time, however, he commented that under a Labour government the scheme would be broadened and wider public participation encouraged. Citizens and the consumer movement would be enabled to "act through consultation as well as complaint".

But he also included a word of caution. "Should standards be seen to drop, we will vigorously enforce the removal of Charter Marks," he said — clearly firing a warning shot across the bows of the public utilities, whose conduct has posed the biggest threat to the credibility of the Charter Mark.

The fact that the Charter Mark has to some extent won over Labour represents quite a victory for the Government. As Roger Freeman, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, says: "Any fair-minded observer would say that the Charter Mark has put down solid foundations and is here to stay. It is an honest, serious, permanent and non-partisan contribution to raising the standard of public service."

Charter Mark arises out of the Charter movement and is run by



It is an honest, serious, permanent and non-partisan contribution to raising standards

Roger Freeman

the Citizen's Charter team in the Cabinet Office. But while the Mark enjoys unalloyed support, politicians are still trying to squeeze some marginal advantage out of the Citizen's Charter.

John Major has described the Charter initiative as a long-term programme which is about cultural change. He says: "The Citizen's Charter is not about bureaucracy. It is about people. It is about improving the quality of people's lives."

Of course, subsequent rows — such as that over mixed-sex wards in hospitals — have rather whittled

away some of the advantage that the Charter might have brought. Labour describes the five years of the charter as "a history of lost opportunities and of failure to fulfil its unique potential". It adds: "The Conservatives' Charter has not fulfilled its promise. It has failed both service user and provider."

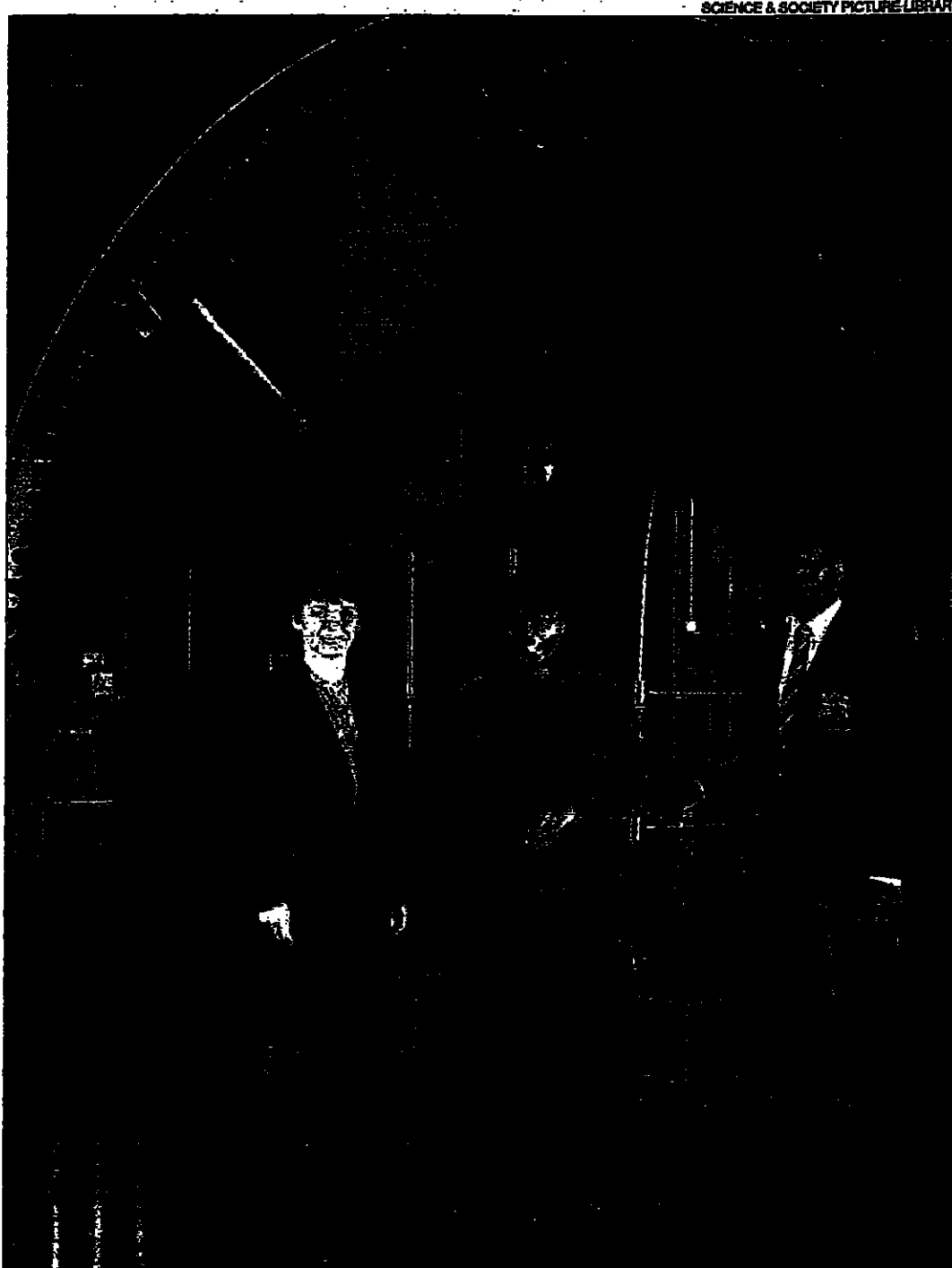
Notwithstanding that criticism, the concept of the Charter has been endorsed by Labour. It says that it will give the Citizen's Charter more bite by "bringing it directly into people's homes using teletext and the Internet".

It also states that it will "initiate a cultural revolution in the complaints procedure by using complaints as an opportunity to improve design and delivery of service, not a nuisance to be defensive about". In fact, the Government has been saying much the same thing for some time now.

The Liberal Democrats are, meanwhile, fully behind the notion of the Charter and claim that they thought of it first. In their last statement on the matter, they said: "We welcome the Government's belated acceptance of the principle of our ideas for public service charters. We regret, however, that it has failed to adopt many of the detailed proposals that are necessary to ensure the delivery of a high-quality service."

So, apart from the rhetorical flourishes designed to create an illusion of difference between them, the three parties are pretty much in accord. They hate to say so, but basically they agree with each other.

Charter Mark and Citizen's Charters are basically a good thing. We shall be living with them for some time to come.



At your service: Charter Mark winners keeping the wheels turning smoothly at the Science Museum are a warder, explainer and ticket/shop assistant — each doing their bit to answer visitors' inquiries

Big wheels and little dials

AMONG winners in this category are the Science Museum in London, pictured left, the Crafts Council, the tourist information centre in Belfast and BBC Radio Leicester.

Almost 30 years ago, Radio Leicester became the first local radio station in Britain. Today it is the first broadcaster in the country to win a Charter Mark. "It is wonderful," says Liam MacCarthy, its editor. "We believe this shows the commitment we have to serve the people of Leicestershire, providing a value for money service that is unique."

Each week 213,000 people in the county listen to the station's mixture of news, sport, information, community debate and entertainment. Twenty years ago the station launched the first daily programme for Asian listeners, which has been expanded into a key part of a new BBC Asian network serving more than 350,000 across the Midlands.

The Belfast Information Centre, run by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board, won a Charter Mark because it offers a first-class service to the public, according to David Roulston, manager of information services.

Each member of staff wears a name badge which identifies fluency in particular languages; employees are trained in deaf awareness; there is a minicom telephone for customers with hearing difficulties and the centre meets strict deadlines for responding to inquiries.

Roy Baillie, chairman of the tourist board, says: "I am delighted with this official recognition of the dedication and commitment of a small number of staff. The last two years have seen a massive increase in accommodation bookings."

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Building the Future

Schools' top mark

GRANGE PARK, a primary school in Sunderland, in an area of high unemployment and deprivation, is the first school in the North East to win a Charter Mark. John O'Neill, head teacher, attributes his school's success to a highly committed staff who work well as a team. "Teamwork is the key feature," he says.

Earlier this year, school inspectors recognised Grange Park as a "school of many strengths" and the head says it is determined to give its 340 children — aged four to 11 — the tools and motivation to be prepared for, and optimistic about, the future.

The school has been concentrating on raising standards of literacy and reading through the Read-

ing Recovery Programme and on improving behaviour through an "assertive discipline" scheme. The latter sets out clear boundaries. Children are rewarded for good behaviour.

Grange Park also has a school council — rare in a primary school — in which pupils have a say about the way the school is run.

Another inner-city school which has won a Charter Mark is Darnum Comprehensive in Doncaster. The school, with its 1,300 pupils, including 250 in the sixth form, is known for its strong community links, particularly with local businesses.

Last year school inspectors praised Darnum for its caring ethos.

Hayle Community School in Cornwall, a comprehensive with 620 pupils, won a Charter Mark for the second time. "It is a tribute to the partnership between home, school and community," says head teacher Alec Oliver.

The partnership between home and school is given high priority and pupils' progress is well monitored with information made available to parents. Together with a study diary, regular newsletters and a school newspaper, this ensures there is considerable opportunity for parental involvement, resulting in high academic standards.

Driving force

THE Europa Buscentre in Belfast, a second-time winner, has improved its service even more, according to its district manager Aiden Padoon. They are hoping for a hat trick in 1999.

Hailed by Neil Kinnock, European transport commissioner, as an example of the "best transport practice in Europe", the Europa Buscentre offers services that it claims rival, and even exceed, the standards of many airports. Since its first Charter Mark it has added an information desk with multilingual staff, extra facilities for people who find it difficult to get around, and a new bus service. The opening of the

adjacent Great Victoria Street railway station last year provides an integrated building with bus and rail facilities with a link on the same level to airports, ferry terminals and local hospitals.

Other winners in the category are Anglia Railways in London and the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive which has won two awards — for its Meadowhall and Sheffield interchanges.

Charter Mark inspectors reported that both interchanges were clean, efficient and comfortable with good customer standards that were properly monitored.

Success that caps it all

THIS is the first year that housing associations have been included in the Charter Mark awards. Nine have won awards, including Blackwater housing association in Braintree, Essex, which began in 1989 and now provides more than 500 homes.

Blackwater prides itself on its standards of consumer care and was recently declared 100 per cent friendly in a customer survey. "We have been able to maintain standards despite our increasing size," says Michael Leggett, a director.

Numerous Government benefits agency offices have won Charter Marks as well as the benefits agency investigation service for Cornwall — the first fraud organisation in the country to win. One of its unusual features is a customer services manager.

"We have shown that we can deliver excellent value for money to the taxpayer while at the same time not losing sight of the needs of all those we come into contact with," says Vic Hibbert, the manager. The team has saved the taxpayer more than £16 million.

Government departments which have won awards include the Customs and Excise VAT office in Edinburgh, a second-time winner. It has continually striven to improve its services and introduce innovations. Local businesses, for example, are being helped to understand the basics of VAT through evening seminars, one-to-one surgeries and videos.

Wessex Water, South Staffordshire Water and Severn Trent Water authorities have won Charter Marks the category of privatised utilities and nationalised industries.

The Royal Mail's customer service network in North Wales and the North West has also been recognised.

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The award scheme is underpinned by nine criteria and the rigorous but fair process used by the assessors to judge organisations

Only those with flair need apply

The value of the Charter Mark rests largely on the rigour of the assessment process, **Edward Fennell** writes. To stand a chance, organisations must show that they satisfy the nine criteria which form the basis of the initiative (see box).

Beyond that, however, they must be running their operation with a particular flair for efficiency or imagination. Most Charter Mark winners have something special to offer that makes them stand out from the crowd.

Although the initial selection is based on a written presentation, the assessors insist they are looking for substance, not window-dressing.

An increasing number of small units, such as primary and infant schools and individual hospital departments, are applying, so it is unlikely that many entrants will be able to draw on the services of public relations advisers. The unvarnished truth is what the assessors want to see.

Most of this comes up during the assessor's visit. Once an entry looks promising, an assessor will call. Often these assessors will have a particular expertise, but they act generally as alert laymen and surrogates of the general public.

Derek Turner is a former member of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Schools and is now an educational consultant. As well as being an

Ofsted school inspector he undertakes Charter Mark inspections and sees beneficial parallels between the two.

"Most organisations look better in practice than they appear on paper," he says, and explains that the real aim of the visit is to see whether the evidence is available to back up claims made in the written submission. The visits are intensive and involve the questioning of managers, staff and consumers.

One of the challenges is to ensure that all the assessors are using the same standards of judging. Tom Corrigan, the assessors' team leader, has the job of maintaining quality control. He says: "One of my roles is to ensure that double checks are made through other sources such as audit reports."

Once the assessors are satisfied, the recommendation goes before the national judging panel. The final list is passed to the Prime Minister. The results of his decision are on show today.

After the assessment is complete, the last job for the assessors is to provide feedback to entrants — not least to those who failed. Once disappointed applicants have understood where they need to make improvements, they do not feel so bad about failing and can be determined to try again.

Frequently they become the successful entrants of the year after.

THE CRITERIA

Standards: Setting, monitoring and publication of explicit standards for the services that individual users can reasonably expect.

Information and openness: Full, accurate information readily available in plain language about how public services are run, what they cost, how well they perform and who is in charge.

Choice and consultation: The public sector should provide choice. There should be regular consultation and users' views taken into account.

Courtesy and helpfulness: Courteous and helpful service from public servants. Putting things right: With an apology, a full explanation and a swift and effective remedy.

Value for money: Efficient and economical delivery of public services within resources the nation can afford.

Customer satisfaction: Evidence that organisations can demonstrate customer satisfaction with the service.

Measurable improvements: Measurable improvements in the quality of service over the last two or more years.

Innovation: To have in hand, or plan to introduce, at least one innovative enhancement to services without any extra cost.



Winner: Rail Regulator, John Swift, front, at the launch of Anglia Railways' portable ramp for wheelchair passengers at Ipswich



Winning team: husband and wife doctors Kallol and Bhaswati Majumdar, who won a Charter Mark at their Isle of Wight surgery

Top city services

FOUR of the city's services in Birmingham have won charter marks for the quality of their work and their responsiveness to people. They are the Ruby Rhydderch home and daycare centre for old people; leisure services; public health and trading standards which has developed a "wasp busting" initiative to reduce delays in treating wasp nests; and Birchfield community school, a primary school for 760 pupils in Aston.

The philosophy of excellence combined with meeting the individual needs of users is embodied at the old people's home which has a charter of 20 rights for residents and a keyworker system whereby each resident has a particular care assistant who is responsible for their personal and emotional needs.

Would-be house owners in the Midlands, Dudley metropolitan borough, are also receiving a high quality service. The local land charges team has won a Charter Mark for the speed and

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

efficiency with which it processes land and property searches.

Since 1991 there has been a seven-day guaranteed service for the searches. Last year 7,360 searches were processed; the average time was three days.

Other local authority winners include the London borough of Hackney which has won a charter mark for its decorating service (pictured on page 39) for pensioners and the disabled, and Newark and Sherwood district council in Nottinghamshire which has won two awards. The charter marks have gone to the council's housing and environmental health department and the homelessness and housing advice section.

Another council recognised for its work on the homeless is Liverpool where the housing advice service has won a Charter Mark.

Quality in a crisis

EMERGENCY SERVICES

SATISFIED users of ambulances in Merseyside and Cheshire nominated their local ambulance service for a Charter Mark award — and the judges agreed with them.

Eighteen months ago the ambulance service set out to improve its management and this year it is reaping the reward: a British Standards Institute award for management and a Charter Mark. "It's an acknowledgement of the efforts of the management team and the staff working together to set standards," said David Todhunter, chief executive.

Another winner, Greater Manchester Police, has won praise for consulting with the community and its community policing initiatives, which involved clean-up campaigns and the eviction of problem families in two estates in Swinton. Extensive restructuring of management ranks meant more bobbies back on the beat.

North of the border, Dumfries

and Galloway Constabulary has won a Charter Mark for the second time, as has Dumfries and Galloway fire brigade. The police in the area have seen a fall in crime of 13.7 per cent, or 1,446 fewer crimes, since 1993. Detection rates have risen by 11.3 per cent and stand now at around 65 per cent.

The force consistently achieves close to 100 per cent satisfaction rates in user surveys and has operated a substantial number of programmes aimed at consulting with, and providing information to, the public. Alan Raymond, one of its constables based at Wigtown, has won a Charter Mark for best staff suggestion this year.

He had the idea of a mobile police station to serve the more remote communities of South West Scotland. It was an instant hit.

Just what the patients ordered

HEALTH

DOCTORS Kallol and Bhaswati Majumdar, two GPs in the Isle of Wight who won a Charter Mark, are a husband and wife team who have introduced a special pop-in clinic for teenagers as well as alternative therapies such as acupuncture.

They were nominated by more than 100 local people, which led to the first ever Isle of Wight Charter Mark to the Ryde-based surgery.

"When we first started the practice we had only 1,000 patients," Kallol Majumdar explains. "Now we have more than 2,300. That indicates we don't give bad service."

For the second consecutive year East Gloucestershire NHS Trust has won a Charter Mark for the quality of its services and its innovative ideas.

New schemes for customers include a children's menu designed by a patient on Battledown ward at Cheltenham General Hospital, short-legged pyjamas for patients undergoing lower leg surgery and personal care packs for emergency patients, including toiletries and nightwear.

Several members of the public nominated the trust for the award because they were so impressed with their care and treatment. "We were delighted in 1993 when we received the award for the first time," says Clive Thomson, trust chairman. "This year it is even more pleasing."

The accident and emergency department at Belfast City Hospital, which deals with the victims of bombs, bullets and punishment beatings, was another award winner. Despite the unpredictable nature of their work in the province, staff introduced new ways to improve patient care.

Emergency nurse practitioners were appointed to speed up patient flow and reduce waiting times for minor complaints. A 24-hour helpline was set up as well as bereavement counselling.

At Harefield Hospital in Uxbridge an award was made to the paediatric surgical unit for improving treatment and care of children and their families. State-of-the-art medical advances and new procedures reduce pain as well as the child's stay in hospital.

Hackney Construction Services

HACKNEY PAINTERS DECORATED

We would like to say a big thank you to the customers who nominated us for our Charter Mark success — and everyone else who has been pleased with the decoration service we provide.

This is the first Charter Mark to be awarded to a painting service and we are pleased with the achievement of our skilled and dedicated team of painters and decorators.

We provide an internal decorating service for the elderly and disabled tenants in Hackney — and according to a recent survey, this has achieved an impressive 100% customer satisfaction.

We are not complacent and seek to continuously improve our services to our customers.

Charter Mark was achieved through:

- a 'one-stop shop' service taken into tenants' homes
- a password system to protect vulnerable and elderly tenants
- an improved information pack providing full details of the service
- a large choice of good quality wallpaper and paint colours
- regular quality inspections of the work
- a staff suggestion scheme
- customer-nominated Awards for excellence



Leyland Paints are the UK's leading supplier of low odour water based coatings and are proud to be the exclusive supplier to Hackney Construction Services.

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR CHARTER MARK AWARD
from Quanthurst Decorating Supplies Ltd.
Suppliers of Quality Wallcoverings and Decorative Materials. Tel: 01708 743590



(Not literally, of course, because the energy required to escape the earth's gravitational pull on a body the size of the Science Museum's building at South Kensington is 3.13×10^9 J. That's the equivalent of 7.47 million tonnes of TNT, and one big bang's enough for us.)



Awarded for excellence

The Science Museum has won a Charter Mark for Excellence in Customer Service.



SCIENCE MUSEUM - SEE INSIDE FOR INSPIRATION

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

[illegible]

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Acal, Allen, Ascot Holdings, BTG, BTP, Colson Group, Eurodollar Holdings, Omi Int, Oriflame Int, Scottish & Newcastle, Eliza Tinsley Group, Tops Estates, Finals: H Young Hldgs, Stakis, Toy Options.

Economics: UK November provisional M0 money supply, UK Nationwide house price index, EU finance ministers meet.

TOMORROW

Interims: Bath Press Group, Belhaven Brewery Group, Border Television, East Surrey Hldgs, Firth Hldgs, Fulcrum Inv, Hazlewood Foods, Thomas Locker Holdings, Marston Thompson & Evershed, Morris Ashby Photobition Group, Siebe, St James Beach Hotels, Wellman, Wessex Water. Finals: Barcom, IOC International, Scottish Radio Hldgs. Economics: UK November Halifax house price index, US Treasury announces size of short-term bills.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Caffyns, Hadleigh, Northern Investors, Orbus, ScottishPower, Starling Publishing, TGI, Thom Lighting, Victoria Carpet. Finals: Bass, Black, Carlton. Economics: Bank of England gilt auction, UK/US "open skies" talks resume, US October housing completions.

THURSDAY

Interims: Airsprung Furniture, Courts, Expro Int, Gibson Group, Great Universal Stores, Philip Harris, IWP Int, Northern Electric, Northern Ireland Elec, Pysu, Rascal Electronics, Sylvania. Finals: Avis, Denby Gp, Dewhurst, MEPC, Ransomes, Sheriff Hldgs. Economics: UK October housing starts, UK SMTT November new car registrations, UK CBI quarterly distributive trades survey, meeting of Bundesbank.

FRIDAY

Interims: Brassey, General Electric Co, Samuel Heath. Finals: Bearing Power Int. Economics: UK October industrial output, UK October manufacturing output, UK Q3 construction output, US November non-farm payrolls, US November unemployment.

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK

Carlton broadcasts an advance



After the Westcountry acquisition, Michael Green, chairman of Carlton, is to unveil results

CARLTON: Fresh from its £85 million acquisition of Westcountry Television, the group is back in the news this week when it unveils full-year figures on Wednesday. These are expected to confirm that Carlton is, indeed, now a leading player in the independent television network with an estimated 34 per cent of the advertising market.

Pre-tax profit estimates range from £295 million to £300 million (£248.5 million). Earnings are likely to have grown 4p to 28.7p, while analysts are forecasting a 13 per cent increase in the payout to 10.6p net. Television advertising has shown signs of recovery this year although the group's London midweek franchise will have lost some ground to LWT. Once again Quantel will provide the power for the group's performance which will help to drive up profits at its video and sound products division by about a third.

BASS: Still celebrating the Chancellor's decision to freeze the duty on beer in the Budget, the group is expected to weigh in with a useful set of full-year figures on Wednesday. These should show pre-tax profits up from £599 million to between £660 million and £670 million. The main improvement should come from the brewing side. Earnings are expected to have grown 12 per cent to 48.7p, while shareholders should be rewarded with an 8 per cent rise in the payout to 24.5p.

HANSON: Full-year figures on Thursday are likely to have little relevance to the current state of play. These will be the last figures from the group in its old form. Hanson is midway through its demerger programme, having already divested itself of Millennium Chemicals and Imperial Tobacco. Brokers are forecasting pre-tax profits ranging from £1.17 billion to £1.19 billion (£1.31 billion). The City will be looking for further details of the energy division flotation. Earnings will be down and an unchanged dividend of 12p is likely.

GRAND METROPOLITAN: Brokers will be looking to full-year figures on Thursday for evidence of the expected pick-up

in the spirits industry. Some expect pre-tax profits to reach the billion mark, although estimates start at about £968 million (£911 million). Earnings are forecast to rise by about 6 per cent to 32.1p while the payout should rise by 7 per cent to 15.95p.

SCOTTISH & NEWCASTLE: A decline in profits at Center Parcs is likely to provide the focus of interim figures today, although brokers still expect a useful increase in profitability as the benefits of cost savings at Courage and the refurbishment of its Chief & Brewer chain should start

to feed through. At the pre-tax level brokers' estimates range from £188 million to £195 million (£159 million). Savings at Courage are likely to be £18 million, while a 9 per cent decline in the contribution from its leisure activities is envisaged. Earnings growth of 15 per cent is likely as is an 8 per cent increase in the dividend to 7p.

GEC: A fairly pedestrian performance is expected when the group reports interim figures on Friday. But it will be the City's first opportunity to tackle the new chief executive, George Simpson,

on his future strategy for the group. NatWest Securities, the broker, is looking for pre-tax profits of £415 million (£402 million). Some estimates pitch the figure at £420 million. Marconi and GEC-Alsthom have secured some useful contracts, but recent figures from Alcatel, GEC's trading partner, revealed that sales at GEC-Alsthom were down 18 per cent in the third quarter. The final figure could also be hurt by currency fluctuations.

SCOTTISHPOWER: Interim figures on Wednesday will contain only two months' contribu-

tion from Southern Water, its recent acquisition, but brokers will be anxious to establish what cost savings can be achieved. Initial estimates suggest a contribution to operating profits from Southern of about £35 million. Overall group profits are expected to grow at the pre-tax level from £127 million to about £177 million, pushing earnings up about 17 per cent at 13.3p. The figures will be boosted by a full contribution from Manweb.

GUS: Half-year figures from Great Universal Stores on Thursday will be held back by pressure in both sales and margins of its home-shopping division. Currency fluctuations will also take their toll on its overseas retail business. UBS, the broker, is forecasting a small downturn in profits at the pre-tax level from £237 million to £232 million, with earnings per share down 1 per cent at 15.3p. Hard on the heels of the Experian acquisition last month, these figures will focus attention on basics. Last year's performance was distorted by a number of one-offs making comparisons difficult. The problems at mail order need to be tackled and UBS does not rule out the possibility of GUS acquiring Freemans from Sears.

NORTHERN ELECTRIC: Still struggling to fend off the unwanted attention of Catergery, the group has brought forward its interim report to Thursday. The aim is to emphasise the value contained in the company although pre-tax profits are likely to be down from £58.7 million to £48.9 million, leaving earnings per share down from 40.5p to 37.4p. Despite the setback, shareholders can expect a 7 per cent increase in the payout to 12.4p.

NIE: Northern Ireland Electricity's decision to take up the case of pricing policy with the Monopolies and Mergers Commission means that Thursday's results will be virtually meaningless. Pre-tax profits should be down about £1 million to £46.5 million, while earnings will show a small improvement. The reward for shareholders will be a 10 per cent increase in the dividend to 5.5p.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Interest rate rift emerges

The week begins with a key meeting today of European Union finance ministers in Brussels, of particular interest to the financial markets because of signs of a rift emerging on interest rates between France and Germany late last week. The French problem is likely to be highlighted with figures for unemployment in October, coinciding with the Ecofin meeting, expected to show that French unemployment remains at 12.6 per cent. Also today, Britain sees publication of November M0 money supply figures and the latest purchasing managers' survey, expected to confirm that manufacturing industry is continuing to grow.

The next focus comes on Thursday which, in Britain, sees the latest distributive trades survey from the Confederation of British Industry, but also, of key interest, testimony before the Treasury Select Committee on the Budget by Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England. Given the proximity of the next monetary meeting on December 11, the Governor's remarks will be analysed even more than usual for any clues on his attitude towards interest rates post-Budget. Also scheduled on Thursday are German unemployment figures and a Bundesbank council meeting.

On Friday the focus will be on UK industrial production figures for October. They are predicted to show a rise of 0.5 per cent in the month, according to the consensus of market forecasts compiled by MMS International. Manufacturing output is expected to rise 0.4 per cent. This would give year-on-year growth in manufacturing of only 0.4 per cent, a small improvement on the 0.2 per cent annual rate in September. On the same day, November non-farm payrolls are released for America along with other labour market data. These data will be seized upon as an indicator of whether the US economy has picked up steam in the fourth quarter. The non-farm payrolls are forecast to have risen by 175,000 compared with October's increase of 210,000.

JANET BUSH

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Grand Metropolitan, Compass, Hold Scottish & Newcastle. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Grand Metropolitan, Watson and Philip, Hay & Robertson, Hazlewood Foods, Hold Booker. The Observer: Avoid Barclays, ScottishPower. Independent on Sunday: Buy Asda, Amersham International. The Mail on Sunday: Buy Associated British Ports, Revelations Piccadilly.

Chancery Division

Law Report December 2 1996

Court of Appeal

Acquiescence destroys claim

Film Investors Overseas Services SA and Another v Home Video Channel Ltd (t/a The Adult Channel)

Before Mr Justice Carnwath

[Judgment November 12]

The owner of copyright in films who was aware that one of its licensees had plans to broadcast the films outside the area specified in the licence agreement and had subsequently done so, but did not complain or take any other action to stop them, had acquiesced and was therefore not entitled to claim an infringement of copyright.

Mr Justice Carnwath so held in the Chancery Division when dismissing an action for infringement of copyright and breach of contract brought by the plaintiffs, Film Investors Overseas SA, a Liberian company, and Teleworld Communications Ltd, against the defendants, the Home Video Channel Ltd, trading as The Adult Channel.

Mr Paul Dickens for the plaintiffs, Mr John P. Baldwin, QC and Mr James Mellor for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE CARNWATH said that the plaintiffs claimed to own, or to be exclusive licensees of the copyright of several films which were erotic in content and were intended for adult viewing.

The defendants operated a television broadcasting service, the Adult Channel, which was shown between midnight and 4am. It began transmissions in February 1992 and initially was directed at the United Kingdom market. Broadcasts were either by cable or domestic satellite dishes. Transmissions by satellite were encrypted so that they could only be viewed by those who had a decoding device operated by a "smart card". The defendants sold smart cards to its subscribers.

In April 1992 the plaintiffs granted to the defendants a licence

during the licence period to exhibit films on distribution systems in the licence area as part of a pay television service. The licence area was defined as "the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man, the Channel Islands and Eire".

Transmissions by the defendants was by Astra satellite which was in geostationary orbit above Europe and its footprint extended over most of continental Europe as well as the licence area defined in the agreement. Once a programme had been broadcast to the satellite it could be received anywhere within the footprint by anyone who had the necessary decoding device.

By early 1993 the defendants were aware that the programme was being watched in Europe, either by use of pirated cards, or genuine cards which had been sold outside the area for which they had been issued.

Around February 1993 the defendants decided to sell smart cards in Europe, partly in order to put the unlawful use on a lawful basis and provide for a network of authorised dealers in those countries who could control use, but also because the marginal costs of extending their service in that way were very small and they expected the exercise to be profitable.

Sale of decoders in Europe began in April. The plaintiffs' films continued to be shown and in voices for new films were submitted and paid up until November 1993. About 140 films were supplied under the agreement. The plaintiffs' complaint in essence was that the defendants had breached the terms of the agreement by infringing their copyright by arranging for sale of decoders outside the licence area.

The defendants denied any breach and said that in any event the sale of decoders in Europe was done with the plaintiffs' express consent or that they acquiesced in the arrangement. Both sides called

evidence in support of their cases.

The question to be decided was whether the plaintiffs were precluded by express or implied acquiescence from complaining of the exhibition of their films outside the licence area.

The principle was explained by Mr Justice Oliver in *Taylor Fashions Ltd v Liverpool Victoria Friendly Society* [1962] 1 QB 133, 151 that "it would be unconscionable for a party to be permitted to deny that which, knowingly or unknowingly, he has allowed or encouraged another to assume to his detriment".

That being the test, his Lordship was satisfied that at least from the middle of 1993, the defence was made out. The plaintiffs' chief executive and managing director knew, or strongly suspected that his films were being shown on the Adult Channel but he chose deliberately to do nothing about it because it suited him to do so.

He was aware from March 1993 that the defendants had plans for Europe. He was being requested for lists of his European titles. He was also aware from other licensees that the defendants were broadcasting some films in Europe.

Had he been concerned about those developments he would have asked for further information or made his own enquiries. There was no written complaint of any kind to the defendants.

The true position, his Lordship believed, was that the plaintiffs were content for the defendants to show the films in Europe because that offered the best prospect of increasing subscriber numbers and entitling them to royalty payments under the agreement.

Therefore the defence of acquiescence was well founded and it was unnecessary to deal with the alternatives, but his Lordship went on to comment on the construction of the agreement.

The plaintiffs suggested that

there was no right to use the Astra satellite at all, given that its footprint extended beyond the licence area. On the other hand the defendants submitted that the plaintiffs had no legal basis in the UK for restricting transmissions received in Europe and that a grant of a licence in the UK could not be read as implying a denial of rights elsewhere.

His Lordship said that both these lines of argument seemed unrealistic. It was part of the essential background of this agreement that there would be transmission by satellite direct to home. Both parties knew that the way that would be done would be by the Astra satellite, which in this country was the conventional method for such transmissions.

It was also part of the background understanding that broadcasts would be confined to the licence area by use of the conventional machinery of encryption and sale of decoder cards.

It was entirely appropriate that there should be an implied term in the agreement that the defendants would not sell or distribute decoders to those who they knew or had reason to believe would use them for the purpose of viewing films outside the territory.

There was nothing onerous in the condition as drafted. It required the defendants to know, or positively to have reason to believe, that those to whom they were selling would use it outside the territory. It did not require them to control the lawful use or piracy.

However, the plaintiffs' other suggested implied term that "the defendants would take all reasonable steps to prevent films being viewed by persons outside the territory" was not acceptable. It left wholly unclear what steps, positive or negative, the defendants would be obliged to perform.

Solicitors: The Simkins Partnership; Matthew Arnold & Baldwin, Watford.

Gardner and Another v Marsh and Parsons (a Firm) and Another

Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Pill

[Judgment November 13]

The purchasers of a maisonette with a serious structural defect which their surveyor had negligently failed to spot were entitled to damages against the surveyor based on the difference between the value of the property without the defects and its value with the defects at the date of purchase.

The fact that the defect had subsequently been rectified at their landlord's expense in accordance with the terms of the lease should not in the circumstances of the case deprive the purchasers of their damages because the landlord's action did not flow from the original negligence.

The Court of Appeal so held, Lord Justice Peter Gibson dissenting, dismissing an appeal by the first and second defendants, Marsh and Parsons and Sean Dyson, from a decision of Judge Byrt, QC, in the Mayor's and City of London Court on February 27, 1995 awarding the plaintiffs James Piers Gardner and Fenelope Helen Gardner £29,000 for the defendants' admitted negligence.

Mr Adrian Brunner, QC and Mr James Palmer for the defendants, Mr Edwin Johnson for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST said the plaintiffs had in June 1985 been interested in buying a converted maisonette at 8 Royal Crescent, Notting Hill, London, subject to a satisfactory survey. Unfortunately

the second defendant had carried out the survey negligently, having failed to spot a serious structural defect. The purchase of a long lease was completed on September 11, 1985, a covenant in the lease providing that the landlord, Guidedale Ltd, were responsible for structural repairs.

The structural defect, caused by stresses resulting from the adding of a floor at roof level when the property was converted in 1985, did not come to light until 1988 when the plaintiffs sought unsuccessfully to sell. It was remedied by Guidedale in 1990.

The judge had assessed the measure of damages as the difference between the value of the property without the defects and its value with the defects at the date of purchase, following a line of authority starting with *Phillips v Ward* [1956] 1 WLR 471. On the basis of expert evidence he set the value of the property with the defect in 1985 at £85,000.

The defendants had contended that if the defect had been discovered in 1985 and drawn to Guidedale's attention, they would have remedied it at their own expense and there would consequently have been no diminution in the maisonette's value and no entitlement to more than nominal damages. The defendants' second ground of appeal was that even if they were wrong on the first point, the plaintiffs avoided their loss by reason of the repair undertaken by Guidedale in 1990.

The judge had rejected that submission saying that it was not relevant that the risk had subsequently been eliminated at the cost of someone else.

His Lordship reviewed *Phillips v Ward*, *Perry v Sidney Phillips & Son* [1982] 1 WLR 1297 and *Watts v Morrow* [1991] 4 All ER 937. It was intrinsic to the principles laid down in those cases that, in assessing the market price of a property in its defective condition, a hypothetical sale of the property in that state was assumed to have taken place.

It was basically unsound to proceed on the basis that in the particular circumstances of the instant case no sale would have taken place until after the defect had been remedied.

Mr Brunner's scenario did not accord with the actual facts of the case, seeing that the plaintiffs did in fact purchase the maisonette while still in its defective state, which was a natural consequence flowing from Mr Dyson's negligence. Nor was the inference Mr Brunner contended for supported by the evidence. The first ground of appeal failed.

His Lordship reviewed the authorities bearing on the second ground of appeal, *British Westinghouse v The Underground Electric Railways* [1912] AC 673, *Hussey v Eels* [1990] 2 QB 227 and *Jones v Jost* [1989] LR 3 QB 97.

Mr Brunner had submitted that the plaintiffs having themselves adopted the reasonable and prudent course of investigating the repairs, and those repairs having been undertaken with the result that the defect was rectified, the plaintiffs had suffered no loss, and were no worse off, seeing that the premises had been restored to their full value well before the date of trial. He had recognised the difficulty of reconciling that formula-

tion with the authorities.

Mr Johnson had submitted that where as a result of the defendant's negligence a plaintiff suffered loss in the form of diminution of value of the property, that loss was not avoided by the subsequent conduct of the plaintiff unless such conduct flowed inexorably from the original transaction and could properly be seen as part of a continuous course of dealing with the situation in which the plaintiff originally found himself.

The landlord's action in repairing the property was collateral and res inter alios acta, a thing done between other parties. Moreover, it did not flow inexorably from Mr Dyson's negligent act and was in no sense part of a continuous course of dealing.

Lord Justice Mustill in *Hussey v Eels* had warned against laying down potentially unreliable statements of principle in the field of damages. The issue was primarily one of fact.

In his Lordship's judgment, having regard to the intervening events and to the long interval of time, the repairs executed in 1990 were not part of a continuous transaction of which the purchase of the lease as a result of Mr Dyson's negligence was the inception. Furthermore, the repairs undertaken by Guidedale were res inter alios acta and therefore collateral to Mr Dyson's negligence.

Lord Justice Peter Gibson delivered a dissenting judgment and Lord Justice Pill delivered a judgment concurring with Lord Justice Hirst.

Solicitors: Lloyd Cooper; Stephenson Harwood.

Damages for structural defect

£1,000 surety required from applicant

Regina v Croydon Justices. Ex parte Morgan

Before Lord Justice Schiemann and Mr Justice Butterfield

[Judgment November 14]

The fact that an applicant for a case stated was legally aided with a nil contribution and had no disposable assets did not mean that he should not be required to justify, as a condition of staying the case, to enter into a recognisance with a surety conditioned to prosecute the appeal without delay.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held, dismissing the application of Neil Morgan for judicial review of the refusal by Croydon Justices on July 14, 1995 to refuse to state a case under section 114 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 unless the applicant entered into a recognisance of £1,000 with

a surety in a similar amount conditioned to prosecute the appeal without delay.

Mr Jonathan Whitfield for the applicant, Mr Robin Howard for the justices.

LORD JUSTICE SCHIEMANN said that one had to bear in mind that the requirement to enter into a recognisance did not require anyone to produce any money until the time when the conditioned events occurred. Section 120(3) of the 1980 Act provided for the situation where, even if the recognisance was forfeited and the applicant found himself without assets, the justices could deal with him according to the circumstances then.

Y Voke Motors (a Firm) v Edwards [1982] 1 WLR 444 was not a criminal case but a civil case where the defendant sought leave

to defend and the court was only prepared to give leave on condition that he paid into court a certain sum.

That case was correctly summarised in *The Supreme Court Practice 1997* (Vol 1, p165) which stated:

"It would be a wrong exercise of discretion to grant the defendant leave to defend on condition that he should pay into court a sum which he would never be able to pay, for that would be tantamount to giving judgment for the plaintiff... But this was relevant 'the fact that the defendant does not have a house of his own... that he is unemployed and in receipt of supplementary benefit or that he is legally aided with a nil contribution, does not mean that he cannot find a sum by way of security as a condition of being granted leave to

defend, since he may be able to raise capital from friends, business associates or relatives..."

That was a case different from the present but the principle which the House of Lords set out was that, in this type of case, it was for the applicant to satisfy the court that he was indigent.

In the present case there were no grounds on which the court could interfere and the decision of the justices was within the area of their discretion. It was open to the justices, having heard the applicant at his trial and formed a view of his truthfulness, to conclude that the requirement of a recognisance and surety was a sensible one.

Mr Justice Bunterfield agreed.

Solicitors: Paul Black, Haywards Heath; Stonehams, Croydon.

In re a Company, No 004803 of 1996

Before Mr Justice Chadwick

[Judgment October 9]

A director of an insolvent company, whose recommendations as to necessary economies had been disregarded by its controlling directors, was not necessarily to be treated as "unfit to be concerned in the management of a company" within section 6(1)(b) of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 if he failed to resign.

Mr Justice Chadwick so held in the Chancery Division, in dismissing an appeal by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry from an order of District Judge White in Truro County Court on July 26, 1996, whereby he disqualified, under that Act, two of a company's directors from acting as directors of any company for three and two years, while refusing to disqualify Mr Taylor, the third director.

Mr Jeremy Bamford for the secretary of state, Mr Richard Millett for the director.

MR JUSTICE CHADWICK said that Mr Taylor, employed as a

bookkeeper at £8,000 a year, had also been a 10 per cent shareholder and a director of a company in the business of letting holiday cottages.

In October 1991 a letter of concern from its bankers had led to recommendations by Mr Taylor for specific economies, which, according to its auditor whose evidence the district judge had accepted, would have given it a reasonable chance of trading out of its difficulties but the other directors had refused to implement them. In September 1993 the company had gone into voluntary liquidation with a deficiency in excess of £100,000.

Before the district judge, as before his Lordship, the secretary of state had submitted that Mr Taylor ought, at the latest by December 1992, to have resigned his directorship.

As to that, the district judge had found that although there was ground for some criticism of Mr Taylor, his salary was no more than that any junior non-director staff member might expect and he stood to gain nothing extra, as

director or shareholder, from continuance of trading and was, in all but formal title, an employee unable to influence the management of the company.

No doubt by continuing to act as a director of an insolvent company Mr Taylor had exposed himself to potential liability under section 214 of the Insolvency Act 1986 and would have been wiser to resign; but in considering disqualification proceedings, the court was directed by section 9(1) of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 to have regard in particular to the matters set out in Schedule 1 of that Act.

It was clear from the district judge's judgment that he had properly addressed the question of Mr Taylor's personal responsibility for all relevant matters. He had had the advantage of seeing and hearing both Mr Taylor and the company's auditor so it would not be appropriate for his Lordship to interfere.

His Lordship's own remarks in *Secretary of State v Arn and Others* [1996] BCC 884 were not here in point, since they had been

entered in the context of a failure by directors to fulfil their statutory obligations to keep accounting records.

A director who, believing there was no reasonable prospect of avoiding insolvency, protested against further trading, was entitled to remain on the board and to use such influence as he had to try to bring it to an end.

However, if there came a point at which his attendance at board meetings became pointless, because he had to recognise that his co-directors took no account of what he said, it might well become appropriate to ask why he remained and if his only conceivable purpose was to draw his director's fees or to preserve his status, a court might well conclude him so lacking in appreciation of a director's duties as to be unfit to be concerned in any company's management.

The district judge had not found that to be so in Mr Taylor's case and his decision had to be upheld. Solicitors: Anstey Sargant & Probert, Exeter; Dickens Hoggood Chidley, Hungerford.

Director not necessarily unfit

Halifax in the fray for car cover

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

THE price war in car insurance is set to intensify as the Halifax building society, the dominant force in personal mortgages, launches a product. Halifax has 15 million borrowers and savers and aims to offer them car insurance from today via a joint venture with Churchill Insurance. The partnership will give Churchill, a rival to the telephone insurer Direct Line, the backing it needs in an increasingly competitive motor market.

"It is not quite an admission of defeat, but it is a change of strategy," said Paul Goodhind, insurance analyst with NatWest markets. "Churchill should benefit from the deal because Halifax customers are likely to be less price-sensitive than the market as a whole."

Motor rates are now up to 30 per cent lower than two years ago. More than 50 telephone insurers now compete for a fine amount of business.

Halifax will advertise its new service via branches. Churchill will handle telephone enquiries and quotations at its base.

Churchill has signalled a wish to form partnerships. It lost in the bidding for Pet Plan to Cornhill Insurance.

Outcry as utilities target children in battle for gas sales

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE gas industry will this week face increasing pressure to introduce a code of conduct after a fresh wave of complaints about selling tactics, including marketing that targeted children. Concern is growing over aggressive selling as a division has emerged between the gas regulator and the Office of Fair Trading on doorstep sales.

London Electricity and Total Gas, who operate a joint venture, are believed to have backed down from a school marketing campaign after protests from parents. The Gas Consumers Council called for an immediate and enforceable code of conduct after London and Total offered a school in Dorset £7.50 for every pupil whose parents switched to their supply.

The controversy over the school incentives comes as complaints about aggressive selling grows in Dorset and Avon, and Kent and Sussex —

the next two areas where households will be able to buy gas competitively next year.

Last week Eastern Natural Gas was forced to dismiss an agent and suspend another after complaints about misleading information from people in Dorset and Kent.

But yesterday Clare Spottiswoode, the industry regulator, told *The Money Programme* on BBC2 that customers wanted doorstep selling and that, with a code of practice, she would be happy to see the practice spread nationwide.

However, John Bridgeman, the Director-General of Fair Trading, disagreed. Mr Bridgeman, whose job it is to oversee marketing, said he "remained to be convinced of the need for doorstep selling in an unfamiliar marketplace with many vulnerable consumers, particularly if this is done on a commission basis".

The OFT threatened Swed-Gas, the offshoot of the regional

electricity company serving the South West, with legal action after more than 3,000 complaints over its selling in the South West — the first area to have competition for domestic gas. The complaints mainly involved customers who said they did not realise that they were signing contracts. Swed-Gas agreed to change its marketing approach.

The Gas Forum, the gas trade body, tried to set up a code of conduct earlier this year but the OFT refused to support it because it did not have adequate penalties for breaches and because there was no arbitration or conciliation offered for disputes.

Some 500,000 homes in the South West can now switch from British Gas to rival companies. The choice will extend to 520,000 in Dorset and Avon in February 900,000 in Kent and Sussex in March.

Letters, page 21



Lord MacLaurin orchestrated the success at Tesco that has won the vote of top managers

Tesco tops 'most admired' list

TESCO'S innovative approach, which helped it to overtake J Sainsbury, its arch-rival, has also made it the company most admired by top managers of other companies in the annual survey for *Management Today* (Graham Searjeant writes).

The superstore group, led

by Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, replaces Cadbury Schweppes, which still ranks fifth among 260 companies in 26 industry groups, each judged by their peers.

Burford, the property group run by Nigel Wray, comes in second, followed by Next and Marks & Spencer. Spirax-

Sarco, the engineering group, leaps from nowhere to ninth place. Eurotunnel, unsurprisingly, is least admired, sinking from penultimate spot last year. Kwik Save, the retail group, ranks 259 with Sears, the floundering shoe empire, and House of Fraser stores only slightly higher.

Berisford suitor backs off

Berisford, owner of Magnet, the DIY chain, is today expected to announce that a potential bid approach for the company has ended inconclusively. Shares in the company rose 30p to 151p when news of the approach was confirmed, causing the unnamed suitor to take fright.

Job losses

More than 500 jobs, mainly administrative, are expected to go from Southern Water on Wednesday when Scottish Power reveals cost savings worth more than £40 million for the company, along with its own interim results.

Mining profits

Tower Colliery, Wales's last deep mine, made £4 million profit in its second year under the ownership of its shareholding miners. The 300 men will get a 5.7 per cent pay rise and £300 Christmas bonus.

Tax concession

The Inland Revenue has agreed to give small companies advance clearance as to whether their shares qualify for reinvestment relief on capital gains tax.

Strand sale expected

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM AND JASON NISSE

THE Greeting Store Group, run by Stuart Greenwood, who resigned as finance director of ailing Spring Ram in 1993, is set this week to buy Strand Libraries, which has 73 stores and is the fourth-largest card retailer behind Clintons.

Strand has been in administration since May. Greeting Store, which owns about 20 greeting card shops in the

North, is expected to pay about £4 million. Arthur Andersen, Strand's administrator, has closed 16 of the chain's worst-performing stores and intends to sell the business as a going concern. It had been expected to sell just its assets.

The sale will need court approval, which is likely this week. The main creditor of Strand is Hallmark, the greeting cards manufacturer.

CHANGE ON WEEK

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.17	2.01
Austria Sch	19.06	17.56
Belgium Fr	55.87	51.57
Canada \$	2.365	2.295
Cyprus Cyp£	0.810	0.755
Denmark Kr	10.42	9.62
Finland Mk	3.26	2.63
France Fr	3.12	3.47
Germany Dm	2.72	2.51
Greece Dr	421	366
Hong Kong \$	13.60	12.60
Ireland £	120	100
Ireland Pt	1.06	0.97
Israel Shk	6.75	5.10
Italy Lira	2046	2481
Japan Yen	204.50	185.50
Malta	0.641	0.586
Netherlands Gld	3.031	2.801
New Zealand \$	2.51	2.23
Norway Kr	11.28	10.48
Portugal Esc	270.50	252.00
S Africa Rd	8.28	7.48
Spain Ptas	223.50	210.50
Sweden Kr	11.82	11.06
Switzerland Fr	2.30	2.12
Turkey Lira	179000	167000
USA \$	1.778	1.646

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

US dollar
1.6805 (-0.0005)
German mark
2.5833 (+0.0579)
Exchange Index
94.0 (+1.5)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

FT 30 share
2827.0 (+16.5)
FTSE 100
4058.0 (+39.3)
New York Dow Jones
6521.70 (+49.94)
Tokyo Nikkei Avg
21020.36 (+195.75)



IT'S SIMPLER TO SEND A CARD.

If you run a small business and you'd like to say "Thank You" to your customers this Christmas, a card is the best way to get your message across.

It provides a nice personal touch that's warm and friendly without being over the top. And, unlike a business card which usually goes straight into the bottom of a drawer or

the waste-paper bin, your card will be a thoughtful reminder of your services right up to Twelfth Night.

Post your cards (using our colourful festive stamps) and

Royal Mail could help your company

to have a more prosperous New Year.

A card makes everyone's Christmas.



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Ally.
Confidante.

It's even been called
a trade paper.

Because there will always be politics. Because there will always be cutbacks. Because teachers, heads and children have but one chance to do their best, don't miss your copy of The TES every Friday.

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Some travelling teachers
flights which earned
rather than sticking to
the most common

Loyalty pay complements open era for accountants

By JON ASHWORTH

EARNINGS at top accountancy firms come under scrutiny again this week when Ernst & Young and PricewaterhouseCoopers become the latest firms to lay bare their books. The move accompanies reports that some firms are paying loyalty bonuses worth £7,000 or more in an attempt to retain newly qualified staff.

Ernst & Young will be the second Big Six firm to publish a full set of report and accounts following a trend set earlier in the year by KPMG. Then it emerged that Colin Sharman, KPMG's senior partner, received £739,753 in salary, pension contributions

and profit share in the year to September 30, 1995. A similar move by Stoy Hayward revealed that partners earned an average of £92,000 last year.

PricewaterhouseCoopers has promised a "proper disclosure" of earnings when it reports on Thursday. Ernst & Young, which publishes tomorrow, is expected to go further than KPMG, disclosing the earnings of the firm's top management team, as well as for Nick Land, its senior partner. It is also expected to disclose partnership profits over the past four years.

Firms are reported to be offering generous incentives to

newly qualified, in an attempt to stop staff moving to better-paid jobs in industry. Deloitte & Touche is said to be offering pay rises of up to 17 per cent, with others offering 12 to 15 per cent rises. Firms including KPMG and Coopers & Lybrand are said to be pledging loyalty bonuses of between £6,000 and £7,000 to newly qualified who agree to stay for at least a year.

Industry observers say firms are anxious to retain staff at all levels. Robert Walters, chief executive of the financial recruitment consultant, said firms were paying

the price of cutting back on staff during the recession. The increased threat of litigation is one factor encouraging partners to move into better-paid posts in industry, he said. Lawyers and investment bankers now earn substantially more than their accountancy counterparts, and tend to command generous all-inclusive packages, unlike partners, who are obliged to pay for car, pension and other expenses out of earnings.

More than 90 per cent of respondents in a MORI poll commissioned by KPMG were in favour of auditors opening their books to scrutiny.

AIM's value tops £5bn after placings and index rise

New issue level booms

SEVEN companies joined the Alternative Investment Market last week, taking the weekly admission of new issues on the junior exchange to its highest level since the summer boom. All fetched decent premiums as the market's value broke through the £5 billion mark and the FT-SE AIM index jumped 11.3 points over the week to close at 1,035.20.

Shares of Goshawk Insurance, which underwrites for a Lloyd's syndicate, were placed at 110p, and closed the week at 115p. Dawn TII Dusk, the convenience store group,



Alexander O'Neal, second left, with Alan Bellman, Andy Taylor and Dai Davies, of Sanctuary

joined earlier than expected at 115p and fetched a 6p premium.

The next few weeks promise similar momentum. Open Systems, which makes accounting software, plans to become the first US company to join AIM without first seek-

ing a domestic listing. Sanctuary Music joins AIM this month, at an expected value of £8 million. It jointly owns three record labels: its artists include Alexander O'Neal, Elvis Costello and the Pet Shop Boys.

A recent survey from Os-

borne Clarke, the City law firm, found that 64 per cent of AIM companies plan to move to the full list. But almost 18 months after the market's inception, none has so far succeeded in doing so.

FRASER NELSON

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

1996	High	Low	Mid cap (million)	Price pence	Wtd %	Ytd %	P/E	1996	High	Low	Mid cap (million)	Price pence	Wtd %	Ytd %	P/E	1996	High	Low	Mid cap (million)	Price pence	Wtd %	Ytd %	P/E
150	132	13.90	AFA Systems	139	- 6	...	...	38	28	1.37	Debutel Int	28	- 1	...	5	2	4.23	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
151	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
152	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
153	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
154	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
155	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
156	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
157	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
158	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
159	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
160	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
161	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
162	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
163	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
164	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
165	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
166	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
167	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
168	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
169	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
170	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
171	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
172	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
173	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
174	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
175	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
176	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
177	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
178	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
179	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
180	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
181	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
182	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
183	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
184	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
185	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
186	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
187	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
188	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
189	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
190	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
191	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
192	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
193	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
194	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
195	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
196	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
197	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
198	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
199	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
200	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
201	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
202	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
203	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
204	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
205	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
206	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
207	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
208	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
209	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
210	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
211	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
212	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
213	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
214	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
215	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
216	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
217	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	- 11	7.3	9.8	12	1.25	Just Group	2	- 1	...	...
218	118	22.50	ABCO Corp	148	- 10	4.2	11.1	85	60	4.73	David Green	85	-										

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Eyes have it for 3i chief

SIR GEORGE RUSSELL, 3i's chairman, has been seeing trouble since he splashed out £6,200 on a face mask. He bid over the odds at last week's auction of 500 celebrity-decorated masks in aid of The Prince's Trust. Sir George bid for one by fellow Georgie and rock star Sting, illustrated with nine eyes. Moshe Gerstenhaber, begetter of the campaign, is a 3i customer, so Sir George was on his mettle. Now, he wants Sting for a photo shoot, standing alongside his masterpiece at 3i's office in Waterloo Road.

Nervous tadpoles

JUST as tadpoles scatter when the water is disturbed, so did directors of Tadpole Technology after disappointing results. Neither of the contact directors mentioned in the official report to the Stock Exchange was near the stated telephone number. The only person fielding press inquiries was one of chief executive Bernard Hulme's minions.

Asda bash

WIVES and girlfriends will be pleased that Asda is hosting a "Blokes' Night" to help their loved ones through the Christmas shopping. Or will they? Casting an eye over Asda's top 20 gift suggestions — a peach foam bath decanter or a brush stand set — I'm not so sure. On Thursday, a football-free night, blokes are being tempted into Asda stores with beer and carry tastings, male makeovers, and in-store advisers.

NEWS of another leak at the Treasury. Staff in the Public Inquiry Unit were forced to evacuate their tiny corner of the Whitehall building after a radiator burst.

Off the cuff

BARRISTERS for business is the new upbeat slogan for the somewhat sedately named Bar Association for Commerce, Finance and Industry. The in-house barristers group has hit on the idea of marketing its own cufflinks to raise funds for various campaigns. Made in pewter, one reads "settle", the other "sue". Robert Owen QC, next year's chairman of the Bar, has been spotted sporting a pair.

MORAG PRESTON

When lax laws rock the foundations of business

Oliver August on the culture of bribery in Germany that is endangering its reputation overseas and ruining prosperity

Just Ignacio López de Arriortúa will not go down in automotive history as the saintly saviour that he claimed to be. The charismatic Basque who always carries a rosary around had been hired by Volkswagen to slash costs. He claims to have saved Europe's largest carmaker DM8 billion but in the process he slashed much more than overmanning and costly supplier contracts.

GM claimed he used a VW corporate jet to ferry bundles of secret documents from General Motors, his previous employer, to VW's holiday cottage near his Wolfsburg headquarters, where the strategy papers and factory plans were copied and shredded one by one.

Unfortunately for Señor López, GM found out that VW had bought its commercial secrets as well as Señor López's services when it paid him the biggest pay cheque in German car history. GM chased him through the US racketeering courts and last Friday Señor López finally resigned.

His fall from grace will draw renewed attention to what is possibly corporate Germany's biggest problem today. Corruption is seen as a more serious threat to profits than a strong currency, government regulation or high wage costs, according to a survey in a German business magazine.

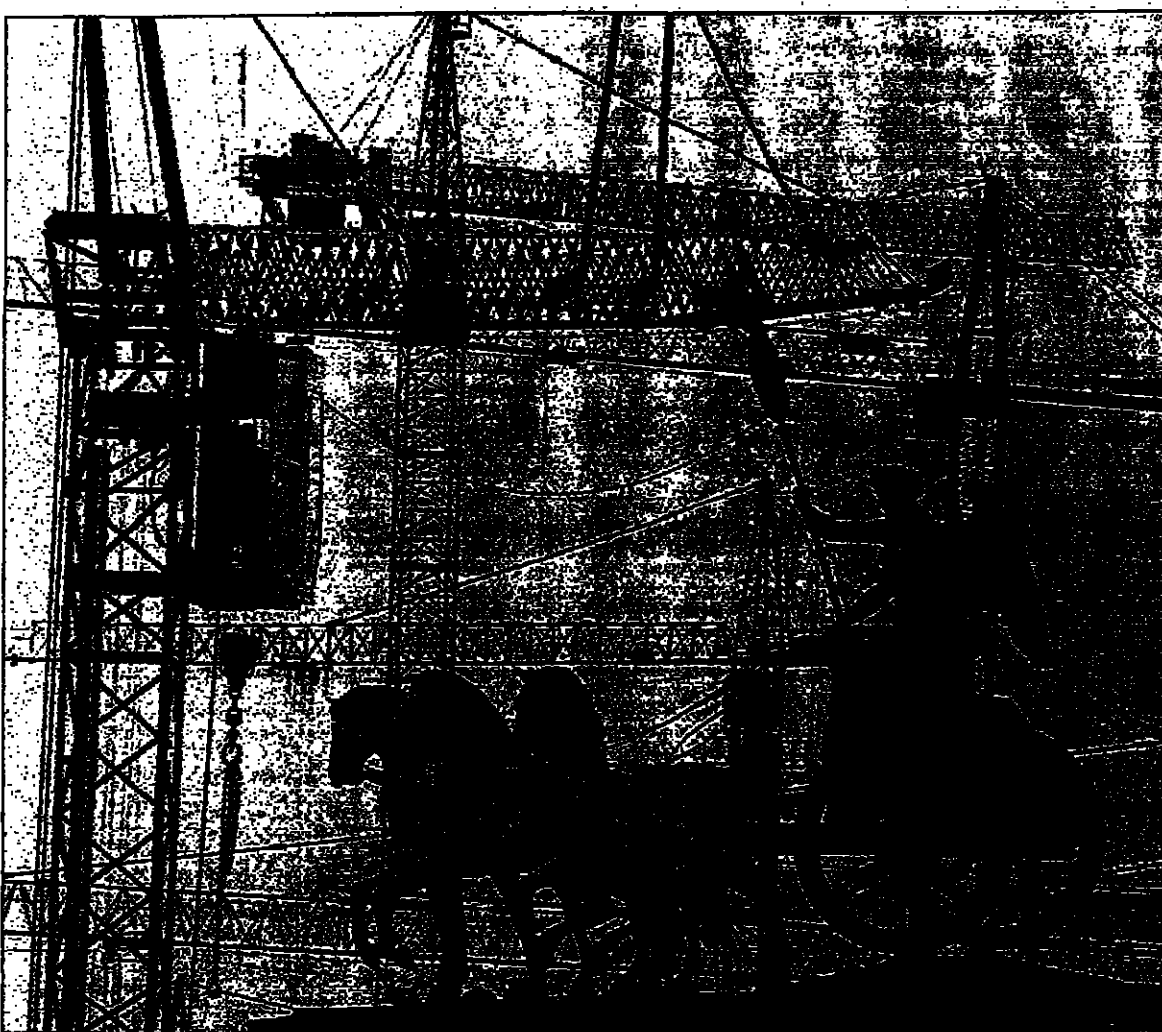
The *Wirtschaftswunder* boom of the 1950s was based on honest hard work. After the war, the nation clung to the Nazis who had promised to create a utopian world but brought shame, destruction and poverty to Germany. Ordinary Germans as well as the new — in many cases not entirely new — governing class were determined to create prosperity without deception or betrayal.

But the country's squeaky clean image became tarnished by a string of high-profile, but holy contested, corruption cases this year. Jürgen Schneider, Germany's leading property magnate who was lent hundreds of millions of marks by bankers against properties whose value he allegedly inflated, now awaits trial in a Frankfurt prison after extradition from Miami.

Dieter Vogel, the chief executive of Thyssen, the steel group, once used to lecture captains of industry on ethics. Now he is being investigated by the Berlin justice department over claims that his company overcharged and exploited the Treuhänder agency which co-ordinated the privatisation of East German businesses.

Possibly the most embarrassing case is that of Olaf Henkel, the president of the Confederation of German Industry. He rose to prominence as head of IBM in Germany. Now *Der Spiegel*, the German news magazine, has claimed that details of his personal bank account show that he received undisclosed payments from other leading German companies.

Ingo Baumann, an insider who has become a critic of corruption in



While the Brandenburg Gate is a symbol of liberty, some building sites in Berlin are a home to corruption

construction, said: "Culturally, we always saw ourselves closer to Britain than to Italy. But I am afraid that today not every German businessman is also a gentleman. Too many have turned into mafiosi. From the small, incestuous bureaucracies in Bavaria to the huge building sites in Berlin, everywhere you need *Schmiergeld* [bribe money] to get contracts."

Herr Baumann is convinced that a "culture of corruption" has evolved because so-called small sins such as tax evasion have become socially acceptable. Neighbours are said to openly swap ideas for new tax schemes.

However, a new book on corruption in Germany claims the result of bribery and fraud are the result of legislative laxity. Werner Rütger, author of *Economy Without Corruption*, said: "The double standards of the German justice system become obvious when you look at the tax laws: corruption is prosecuted, while the tax system actually aids it."

According to Herr Rütger, Germany's tax laws are the result of legislative changes made by the Nazis in 1934. They were desperate for funds in the aftermath of the world depression and had an ingenious idea. By allowing *Schmiergeld* to be treated as a cost item in company accounts, the Nazis could both receive bribes legally and tax the companies for them.

Herr Rütger writes: "Bribes were seen as regular business investments. Since then we have the *Nettoprinzip*, or value neutrality of the tax laws. It is today a principal and irremovable covenant in the German economy. The

German tax code decrees since 1934 that there are no moral standards in economic decision-making. All that counts is the standard of profitability as set by each company."

As a convenient by-product of this law, bribes are tax deductible in Germany. Some companies have written off millions of marks under headings such as exceptional items or marketing and travel costs. The tax inspectors know what that means in cases of, say, arms manufacturers.

The SPD opposition party demanded a change to these arcane practices in the 1996 Tax Act. The Government — aware of the public disquiet over corruption — eventually agreed to a compromise. Bribes are no longer tax deductible if they are paid inside Germany. But this only applies where the briber has been convicted for bribery.

The Government defended the status



José Ignacio López fell from grace

quo by saying that there was a natural limit on how many bribes are actually reclaimed against tax payments. They pointed to the rule that the bribed actually have to be named in the tax forms. Manfred Kanther, the Interior Minister, said: "Nobody writes in their tax report: bribe."

The minister was supported by the whiter-than-white Herr Henkel of the Confederation of German Industry, who said the tax deductibility of bribes was made impossible by the requirement to name individuals involved. But both men overlooked a ruling by Germany's highest financial court. It allows exceptions where naming names would put future contracts in jeopardy and thereby threaten jobs and a company's continuing existence. Where there is a tax code, there must be a loophole.

The culture of corruption is no longer just seen as a threat to Germany's international reputation but as endangering the country's prosperity. Edzard Schmidt-Jortzig, the Justice Minister, said 3,000 civil servants who were found guilty of corruption had caused DM4 billion of damage in one year.

But the costs are believed to be even more significant. While the Government defends the compromise on bribes in the new tax code on the grounds that bribes abroad save jobs at home, anti-corruption campaigners argue that bribes actually destroy jobs because most foreign bribes are large, usually fail because of the number of companies competing for contracts and have to be paid for somehow.

Growth keeps the UK behind in Europe's Grand Prix bond race

If the European bond market is likened to a Formula One Grand Prix race, then the UK's performance remains out in front but their lead has narrowed as Saab, Seat and Ferrari catch up. The Morris Minor is being overtaken by everybody. Gifts now even yield the same as Italian government bonds (BTPs).

However, the very fact that gifts are trading at par with BTPs is now lending support to the UK market. Some foreign investors perceive that such gift yields are attractive on credit considerations alone (after all the UK's debt/GDP ratio is less than half that of Italy, which is well above the psychological 100 per cent level). Further, the strength of sterling has meant that in total return terms gifts have outperformed other markets recently. However, I doubt

that the "BTP effect" will support the gifts market much longer, for three reasons. First, this link means that gifts are now vulnerable to a change in sentiment about whether EMU will start on time and whether Italy will be included. With governments appearing unable to agree

over the stability pact at the Dublin summit on December 13, and with signs that some French officials have started to question the *franc fort* policy, the situation is ripe for a new wave of EMU scepticism. If the market starts to have doubts and Italian yields rise, then gift yields could rise in tandem. Second, earlier in the year

gifts were in the same position against Spanish bonds, but this proved to be only temporary. Yields duly crept over.

Third, whatever the European considerations, the negative domestic fundamentals will surely dominate eventually. If UK base rates are going to rise to the extent that the

short futures contract is indicating, then the gift curve would have to flatten significantly to leave longer-dated gift yields at current levels. However, such a degree of curve flattening seems very unlikely with growth set to be at least as strong as the Treasury predicts. So the real question remains: to what extent inflation and interest rates are going to rise.

Mr Clarke is undoubtedly hoping that he can avoid raising base rates again before the general election. In his Budget speech he rehearsed the arguments he will use to counter Eddie George when they next meet on December 11: commodity prices are stable, earnings growth is modest and producer price inflation is low.

Mr Clarke is also confident that the pick-up in underlying inflation seen in October is "temporary" and while this could turn out to be a hostage to fortune — the RPI data is due for release the day after the monetary meeting — my own forecast shows the underlying rate easing back slightly to 3.2 per cent next month.

The following month may prove more problematic if the French truckers' strike had a significant effect on seasonal

The shocker called Wallis

Wallis: The Life and Legends of Wallis Simpson. Radio 4, 2.00pm.

"Divorce? The very idea! Our ancestry goes back to 1662. What would people say?" The shocked reaction of Wallis Simpson's family when she breaks the news about her intention to end her doomed first marriage occurs in part one of Elizabeth Prod's serialised drama. Of course, we know that there were many more shocks yet to come. But even now, years later, it is astonishing to be reminded just how many of them there were. There never was any danger that, as she predicts in this afternoon's scene-setting instalment, she would settle down to "a fairly comfortable old age" — presumably in husbandless. The American actress Stockton Channing plays Wallis, but we have yet to hear from Christopher Cazenove, who plays Edward, Wallis's number three.

The Afternoon Shift. Radio 4, 3.00pm.

The division of labour — Laurie Taylor is the Monday and Friday presenter, Daire Brehan does the rest of the week — is working well. Taylor continues to suggest that he has just rushed into the studio bursting to share some exciting discovery with us. Nobody does it better than he is on the air. Brehan, like Sue McGregor on Today, has the style and voice of someone whose forte is the delivery of considered judgments. She has more than made amends for the shortcomings of her compatriot, Gerry Anderson, who presented *Anderson Country*, late unlamented precursor of *The Afternoon Shift*. Peter Daville

RADIO 1

2.00pm Chris Evans 5.00pm Simon Mayo 12.00pm Like a Virgin, includes at 12.30pm-12.45 Newsbeat 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00pm Mark Goodier, includes One Night Stand at 3.50-4.05 Newsbeat 7.00pm Evening Session, with Jo Whiteley and Steve Lamacq 8.00pm John Peel's Classic Rock One Sessions 10.00pm Mark Radcliffe, live from Manchester 12.30pm Claire Sturgess, including at 12.35pm The Net 4.00pm Chris Weston

RADIO 2

6.00pm Sarah Kennedy 7.30pm Wales Up to Wigan 8.30pm Ken Bruce 11.30pm Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thompson 2.00pm Stewart 8.00pm John Dunn 7.00pm Hubert Gregg 7.30pm Malcolm Laycock with Dance Band Days 8.30pm Big Band Special 8.30pm Humphrey Lyttelton 10.30pm Mally on Monday: Herb Alpert (40) 10.30pm The Jamieson 12.00pm Steve Macdonald 3.00pm Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00pm Morning Reports, incl at 5.45pm Wales Up to money 6.00pm The Breakfast Programme incl at 6.55, 7.55 Radio 5 News 7.00pm The Magazine, with Claire West, incl at 10.55 News from Europe 12.00pm Midday with Mark, incl at 12.35pm Moneychat 2.00pm Ruocco on Five 4.00pm Nationwide, incl at 5.45 Entertainment News 7.00pm News, incl at 7.30pm Sports Bulletin 7.35pm Sportschat 8.05pm The Monday Match: Tottenham Hotspur v Liverpool 10.05pm News 11.00pm Night News, with Peter Dinklage 11.30pm The Other Side of Midnight 2.05pm All Night

TALK RADIO

5.00pm Early Breakfast 7.00pm Paul Ross 8.00pm Scott Chisholm 12.00pm Anna Rieburn 2.00pm Tony Ray 4.00pm News 7.00pm Paul Coyne (FM) 10.00pm The Sportszone 10.00pm James White 1.00pm Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00pm On Air, with Penny Gore, includes Dvorak (Scherzo capriccioso); Britten (Sally in our Alley); Early One Morning; Get Your Feet Under the Carpet 8.50pm An Advent Calendar, Bishop Jack Spang introduces Christmas carols performed by the St John's Choir, with Mark Hammond, organ and conductor Mary Dennis 9.00pm Morning Collection, includes the west of Scotland's Resurrection; Purcell (Now Doas the Glorious Day, Apperil) 10.00pm Musical Encounters, with Chris de Souza, includes: Telemann (Canzona Ich Werde Fast Entzückt); Lotti (Cantata a 9) 12.00pm Composer of the Week: Jean-Baptiste Lully, Roger Savage introduces music Lully wrote for the stage and explores his link with Louis XIV and Molière 1.00pm News; BBC Lunchtime Concert, live from St John's, Smith Square, London, Kyocera Takeaway, violin, Philip Moll, piano, Terrell (Sonata in G minor, Op. 10, No. 3); Strauss (Waltz, Op. 18, No. 1) (Piano in Form of a Sonata) 2.00pm The BBC Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, conductor Jacek Olek, Dong-Suk Kang, violin, Dvorak (Carnival Overture); Strauss (Violin Concerto); Smetana (From Bohemia's Woods and Fields; Vltava; Sárka, We Vltava); Enescu (Romanian Rhapsody No. 1) 3.45pm Volcanic Cast, with Ian Boshill, tenor, Gerald Finley, contralto and Julius Drake, piano (1)

RADIO 4

6.00pm Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00pm News Briefing 6.10pm Sunday Today 6.15pm Prayer for the Day 6.30pm Today 8.40pm No More an Island Letter 9.00pm News 9.05pm Start the Week with Tom Sutcliffe, Sir Samuel Brittan, Concor Cruise O'Brien, Simon Schaffer and Francesca Kluge 10.00pm News; Dear Diary: Writing the Queen: Ben Pinfield (FM); Ben Pinfield's biography of the Queen was front-page news when it was published this autumn. His diary reveals the story behind the book 10.00pm Daily Service (LW) 10.15pm On the Day (LW) 10.30pm Women's Hour 11.30pm Money Box Live 0171-560 4444, Vincent Duggan takes listeners' calls on a topical issue affecting personal finances 12.00pm News; You and Yours, with Mark Whitaker 12.25pm The Heritage Quiz, with Sue Macgregor, Christopher Cook, Graham Fawcett, Jane Glover and Philippe Gregory 12.55pm Weather 1.00pm The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40pm The Archers (1) 1.55pm Shipping Forecast 2.00pm News; Wallis: The Life and Legends of Wallis Simpson. See Choice (1/2) 3.00pm The Afternoon Shift. See Choice 4.00pm News; Kaleidoscope, Lynne Walker considers the relationship between photography and the stage, as a collection by Lord Snowdon is published 4.45pm Short Story: Will you marry, My Virgin by Richard Braithwaite read by John McEldowney 5.00pm PM 5.50pm Shipping Forecast 6.00pm O'Clock News 6.30pm I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue, Humphrey Lyttelton chairs another edition with Tim Brooke-Taylor, Graeme Garden, Barry Cryer and Willie Russell (1) 7.00pm News 7.05pm The Archers 7.20pm The Food Programme, a special edition, recorded at the BBC Good Food Show and presented by Valerine Harris (1) 7.45pm The Monday Play: Sea Urchins, by Sherrin Macdonald. Music brings together two families who are holidaying in the 1980s on a beach in Wales. With Celia Imrie and Sylvester La Tourel 9.15pm Better than Sex, Beate Morrison talks about cycling in Suffolk (2/3) (1) 9.30pm Kaleidoscope (1) 9.55pm Weather 10.00pm The World Tonight, with Isobel Hilton 10.45pm Book at Bedtime: Archy and Mehitabel, by Don Marquis (2/3) (1) 11.00pm Seaside Serial: Journey (FM). Film director Alex Cox visits Southern Spain (2/3) (1) 11.00pm Education Matters (LW) 11.30pm Airport (FM) With Roger Griffiths (1) 11.30pm Today in Parliament (LW) 12.00pm News incl 12.27pm Weather 12.30pm The Last Shout: Carol, Joe Warambler reads Patrick Horgan's story (2/12) (1) 12.45pm Shipping Forecast 1.00pm As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE: RADIO 1: FM 97.8-99.8, RADIO 2: FM 80.2-80.2, RADIO 3: FM 90.2-92.4, RADIO 4: FM 52.4-54.4, LW 168; MW 124.5-125.5, LW 168, 198, 204, 210, 216, 222, 228, 234, 240, 246, 252, 258, 264, 270, 276, 282, 288, 294, 300, 306, 312, 318, 324, 330, 336, 342, 348, 354, 360, 366, 372, 378, 384, 390, 396, 402, 408, 414, 420, 426, 432, 438, 444, 450, 456, 462, 468, 474, 480, 486, 492, 498, 504, 510, 516, 522, 528, 534, 540, 546, 552, 558, 564, 570, 576, 582, 588, 594, 600, 606, 612, 618, 624, 630, 636, 642, 648, 654, 660, 666, 672, 678, 684, 690, 696, 702, 708, 714, 720, 726, 732, 738, 744, 750, 756, 762, 768, 774, 780, 786, 792, 798, 804, 810, 816, 822, 828, 834, 840, 846, 852, 858, 864, 870, 876, 882, 888, 894, 900, 906, 912, 918, 924, 930, 936, 942, 948, 954, 960, 966, 972, 978, 984, 990, 996, 1002, 1008, 1014, 1020, 1026, 1032, 1038, 1044, 1050, 1056, 1062, 1068, 1074, 1080, 1086, 1092, 1098, 1104, 1110, 1116, 1122, 1128, 1134, 1140, 1146, 1152, 1158, 1164, 1170, 1176, 1182, 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Carlton signals an improved performance

BUSINESS

CORRUPTION 46
Germany's reputation is at risk

MONDAY DECEMBER 2 1996

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

Abbey leads way to dearer home loans

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

ABBEY NATIONAL, Britain's second-biggest housing finance lender, is raising its variable mortgage rates by a quarter point this morning as a direct response to Kenneth Clarke's Budget.

The move is likely to be followed by Halifax and some other big lenders within the next two weeks. Savers, who Abbey claims are the main target of its rate changes, will be offered increases averaging 0.11 per cent from January 1.

The change will raise the payment on the average £50,000 Abbey mortgage by £1.65 a week. That is 1p more than the benefit of last week's income tax concessions to the average family, according to calculations by the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

Abbey mortgage rates will

rise to 7.29 per cent for mortgages of up to £60,000, to 7.24 per cent for mortgages of £60,000 to £100,000, and to 7.19 per cent for higher amounts. The new rates will apply immediately to new borrowers, and to existing borrowers after December 18.

Nationwide has already announced an increase to 6.74 per cent from today.

The new round of rate rises relates to the last quarter-point rise in bank base rates six weeks ago. At that time, most leading lenders adopted a wait-and-see policy until the Budget to avoid too costly changes in quick succession.

Since then, evidence has grown that the housing market is gaining strength and could bear higher charges.

Abbey now says that it

always intended to raise rates to compete more effectively for deposits. Charles Toner, deputy chief executive, acknowledged that investors, who outnumber Abbey's 1.6 million borrowers by seven to one, have been suffering from a "low interest rate environment", and earning less than 4 per cent.

As a verdict on the Budget, however, Abbey's response is far from critical. It argues that it is moving now because Mr Clarke's cautious Budget made it unlikely that there would be another early rise in bank base rates. This is the subject of hot dispute among financial traders in the City.

Halifax, the biggest mortgage lender, has made it clear in the past that it did not wish to raise rates but would do so if big rivals acted first. It confirmed yesterday that the move by its nearest competitor would spark an immediate review of its rates.

Halifax is likely to wait until after the meeting of the Chancellor and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, scheduled for December 11. That would also allow it to respond to the details of Abbey's new savings rates, due on Thursday.

Meanwhile, Halifax will report that house prices have risen by about 7 per cent in the past 12 months, with a further modest rise in its index in November. Many of the extra buyers have opted for fixed-rate mortgages, partly to avoid early rate rises.

Abbey says that demand for fixed-rate mortgages has tripled with the rate of 6.25 per cent for three years plus a 2 per cent cashback. The rate will now be reviewed. Lenders have been trying to phase out special promotions to boost profit margins as the housing market improves but have not fully succeeded yet.

These arguments are likely to feature strongly in the debate between Mr Clarke and Mr George. The buoyancy in housing supports claims for higher base rates, but the Chancellor can claim in turn that a modest autonomous rise in mortgage rates will stop the recovery overheating, without the damaging short-term effects on the economy of a general rise in interest rates.

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SFO wants more talk to fight fraud

By Robert Miller

FRAUDBUSTERS from international agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Interpol, the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) and Scotland Yard, are leading bankers meet in London today in an attempt to tackle money laundering and fraud in the global banking system.

The SFO will argue at the three-day convention that the only effective way to fight fraud and money laundering is to encourage a three-way dialogue between civil watchdogs, fraud squads and banks in different jurisdictions.

Since the SFO's Section 2 powers were extended to help overseas authorities, the office claims to have

received 60 requests for assistance from more than 25 countries.

Brendan Hewson, a former UK fraud squad officer and now senior vice-president of NationsBank, which is sponsoring the convention with the Royal Bank of Scotland and Banco Santander, said: "We want to encourage banks to achieve a global banking standard in which due diligence and know your client are the international bywords for prudent management."

"Financial crime is the common denominator that affects us all and can do irreparable harm to both established and emerging economies."



Marjorie Scardino, whose recent promotion is seen as a role model for the campaign

Business plans to reinforce 'better deal for women' drive

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BUSINESS leaders will today reveal sharp gains made by companies that have taken part in the Prime Minister's initiative to improve opportunities for women in management. It will proclaim the success of efforts to break female employment barriers and urge more small companies to follow suit.

Heads of key UK companies will claim that measures taken to realise greater equality at work have brought benefits to men as well as women through more reasonable working hours and flexible working arrangements. Such changes improve companies' financial performance by reducing labour turnover and scaling down recruitment and training costs.

They will join Lady Howe, chairman of the Opportunity 2000 campaign, to spell out the improved position of women in business since the campaign was launched five years ago by John Major. In companies and other organisations supporting the campaign women occupy more than three times the number of management posts than in British companies generally.

At senior management level the campaign will show that women account for 17 per cent of posts in member companies, up from 9 per cent when it started, and that 60 per cent of its members now offer flexible work arrangements, against less than 30 per cent at the start.

Greater acceptance of women in management is helped by the high-profile appointment

recently of Marjorie Scardino as chief executive of Pearson. Mrs Scardino is the first woman manager to run a top 100 quoted company in Britain.

Since its launch the number of organisations joining the campaign has grown from 61 to some 310, covering about a quarter of the UK workforce. They include ICL, Boots, Marks & Spencer, Tesco, Unilever, Bank of England, GrandMet, BBC, Royal Mail, Dixons, Midland Bank, John Laing, WH Smith, BT, Halifax and British Airways.

But the campaign, which is backed by the CBI, TUC and Equal Opportunities Commission, will also emphasise to-day the need to take the drive to provide more opportunities for women into smaller firms, with the help of small firms' organisations and chambers of commerce. A fifth of Opportunity 2000 member organisations has fewer than 500 employees.

To support the achievements of the campaign, its leaders will point to the evidence of Rank Xerox, which says that culture changes favoured by the campaign have generated a return of more than £1 million through savings in recruitment, retraining and lost productivity.

Women's leaders will also emphasise that a drive for equality brings benefits to men as well as women, especially over issues such as long hours at work. Liz Bargh, director of Opportunity 2000, says: "We have overwhelming evidence that this approach works, and ... benefits business."

Lang likely to refer Bass deal

By Martin Waller, Deputy City Editor

THE Office of Fair Trading is believed to have ruled against the planned purchase of Carlsberg-Tetley by Bass, a £205 million deal that would create Britain's biggest brewer with a market share approaching 40 per cent.

The OFT sent its advice to Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, late last week, and it is thought to have strongly advised that the deal be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to decide whether it should be allowed. Mr Lang has until

Christmas Day to decide whether to refer the bid, to clear it entirely or to insist that Bass and the OFT agree conditions to allow the merger.

City observers believe that the OFT opposition, and the political impact of job losses that would follow the deal, mean that Mr Lang is already inclined to choose a reference.

Mr Lang could extend the deadline into next year. He took the option of an extension with another controversial takeover, the hostile £766 million offer by CalEnergy of the

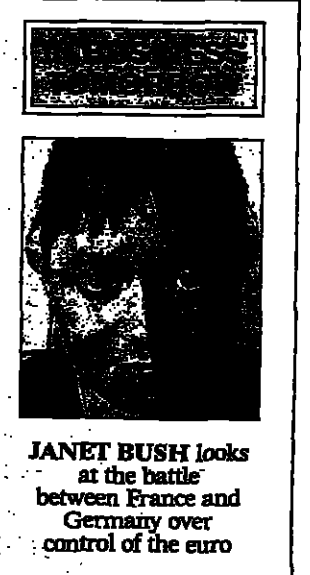
US for Northern Electric. However, the Department of Trade and Industry made clear on Friday night that the Christmas deadline would be met, with no further delays for a takeover that has been brewing for more than a year.

Bass will this week face questions on the progress of the merger when it presents full-year figures on Wednesday. A successful takeover would see Carlsberg, previously joint owner with Allied Domecq of Carlsberg-Tetley, take a 20 per cent stake in the

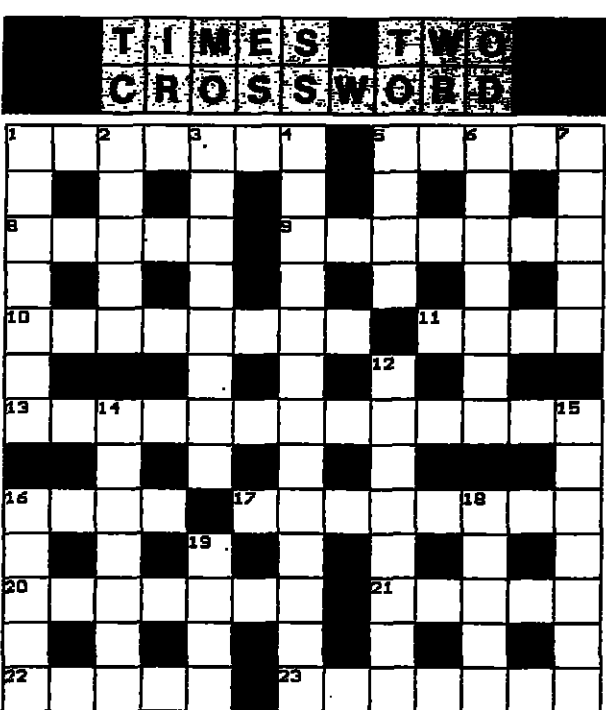
combined brewing operations. However, job losses would result. Bass has said annual costs would be cut by £90 million within three years.

Sir Ian Prosser, Bass's chairman, has pledged that no breweries will be shut, if the deal goes through without conditions. However, analysts believe that the main savings would come from closing part of the combined distribution networks.

For this reason, a reference to the MMC is seen as the most likely outcome.



JANET BUSH looks at the battle between France and Germany over control of the euro



No 954

ACROSS

- 1 A release (from painful life) (7)
- 5 Small, delicate (trinket) (5)
- 8 Nimble (5)
- 9 Supervise (7)
- 10 Fabled land of wealth (8)
- 11 Cheese skin (4)
- 13 (Technologically) up to date (5-2-3-3)
- 16 Little boy attending eg bride (4)
- 17 Passage in eg hotel (8)
- 20 Capital of Sicily (7)
- 21 Good talk; processed cocaine (5)
- 22 Fortunate (5)
- 23 Garden area for alpinists (7)

DOWN

- 1 Friends (7)
- 2 Trojan War poem (5)
- 3 Unproved explanations (8)
- 4 Evelyn Waugh trilogy (5-2-6)
- 5 Coffin stand (4)
- 6 Daughter of Stylock (7)
- 7 Tip over (5)
- 12 Of the rib-cage area (8)
- 14 Seraphic (7)
- 15 Old wanderer (7)
- 16 Student (5)
- 18 Cover with cloth (5)
- 19 Animal hunted for food (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 953

ACROSS: 1 Podium 4 Warden 8 Gulp 9 Tomahawk 10 Downgrade 13 March 15 Laden 16 Knead 18 Chronicle 21 Phonetic 22 Giro 23 Remote 24 Romney

DOWN: 1 Pagoda 2 Delaware 3 Meter 5 Agamemnon 6 Dial 7 Rakish 11 Goldcrest 12 Adder 14 Reaction 16 Kipper 17 Melody 19 Oscar 20 Boom

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NEW for Christmas: The First Crossword Book of the Sunday Times Crossword, The 2nd Crossword Book of the Sunday Times Crossword, The 3rd Book of the Sunday Times Crossword, The 4th Book of the Sunday Times Crossword, The 5th Book of the Sunday Times Crossword, The 6th Book of the Sunday Times Crossword, The 7th Book of the Sunday Times Crossword, The 8th Book of the Sunday Times Crossword, The 9th Book of the Sunday Times Crossword, The 10th Book of the Sunday Times Crossword, The 11th Book of the Sunday Times Crossword, The 12th Book of the Sunday Times Crossword, The 13th Book of the Sunday Times Crossword, The 14th Book of the Sunday Times Crossword, The 15th Book of the Sunday Times Crossword, The 16th Book of the Sunday Times Crossword, The 17th Book of the Sunday Times Crossword, The 18th Book of the Sunday Times Crossword, The 19th Book of the Sunday Times Crossword, The 20th Book of the Sunday Times Crossword, The 21st Book of the Sunday Times Crossword, The 22nd Book of the 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